FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT National Negro Congress

FILE NO. HQ 61-6728

Section # 6

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-949

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
WASHINGTON, D. C.	2/4/43	12/21,22/42;1/4,11/43	[redacted] OJK:mjc

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] indicates JOHN P. DAVIS has found himself in disfavor with the Communist Party of which he is a member and that consequently he is being removed from position of authority in the National Negro Congress, being replaced by ED STRONG of the American Youth Congress. THEODORE DALE presently reported to be a leader in the organization, GEORGE B. MURPHY, Jr., is now in the United States Army. New unit of the National Negro Congress is expected to open soon in Washington, D. C. JOHN P. DAVIS was a scheduled speaker at the Victory Mass Meeting of the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities, held in Washington on December 20, 1942. Literature of Congress still follows Communist Party line on elimination of discrimination in the armed forces and the opening of a second European front.

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REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 10/9/42 at Washington, D. C.

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DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

According to [redacted], however, DAVIS has been on the decline in popularity ever since that time and has now been replaced in the National Negro Congress by ED STRONG of the American Youth Congress of the Southern Youth Congress. [redacted] also said that THELMA DALE has been moved up into the upper brackets of the Congress and was becoming of increasing importance. She also said that the same was true with regard to GEORGE A MURPHY, Jr. She mentioned that MAX YERGAN is still to remain the national chairman of the organization.

[redacted] advised that the National Negro Con[redacted] will shortly open an active unit in Washington, D. C., with an office [redacted] although the headquarters for the group will remain in New York City. [redacted]

Inquiry at 1519 Kingman Place, N. W., the residence of GEORGE [redacted] Jr., disclosed that MURPHY was now serving in the infantry in [redacted] the United States Army, having volunteered for service and being inducted about the first of January 1943.

On hand bills distributed by the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities, a Communist Front Organization, JOHN P. DAVIS, as [redacted] executive secretary for the National Negro Congress was listed as one of the [redacted] scheduled speakers at a so-called victory mass meeting to be held by the [redacted] Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities, in the Zion Baptist Church [redacted] in Washington on December 20, 1942.

[redacted] has reported that as a matter of fact DAVIS did not appear or speak at this meeting. It should be noted that on this occasion the weather was so severe that it may have accounted for DAVIS' absence.

It has been observed that the literature of the National [redacted] Negro Congress continues to follow a Communist Party line on the elimination of discrimination in the armed forces and the opening of the second European front. A copy of the "Washington Council Digest" of the National Negro [redacted] Congress, a mimeographed circular, which was mailed on October 7, 1942, devotes considerable space to an article under the heading "Speak Out for a Second Front Now." This article also mentions an outdoor mass rally which was to have been held on October 12, 1942.

Another article in this paper is devoted to the activities of the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities. According to the article the National Negro Congress is backing the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities to the limit, and it urged that readers join the Committee as regular members and attend all of the meetings of the [redacted] organization. Other articles in the paper discuss various cases of alleged discrimination and the policy of the National Negro Congress with regard to such matters.

Another printed sheet published by the Washington Council [redacted] of the National Negro Congress [redacted] is devoted entirely to alleged discrimination against Negroes in the armed forces and also with the opening of a second front in Europe. This sheet urges that everyone immediately write to the President and urge the immediate opening of the second front.

It also cites with pride the case of DORIS MILLER, the Negro hero of Pearl Harbor and calls for the elimination of every type of discrimination against the Negro in order to further the war effort.

[redacted] has reported that no active meetings are being held by the National Negro Congress in Washington, [redacted]

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ENCLOSURES to the Bureau:

1. Leaflet advertising Victory Mass Meeting, on December 20, 1942.

2. Leaflet entitled "A Step Forward —", issued by Washington Council, National Negro Congress.

3. Paper entitled "Washington Council Digest", of the National Negro Congress.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will follow and report further activity of the National Negro Congress in the Washington Field Division.

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Second Front Rally
Sponsored by the
Cafeteria Workers Union (CIO)
Oct. 12
4 to 6 P.M.
on the steps of the
Old District Building
13th & Penna Ave N.W.

NEGRO LABOR DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO WORK IN WAR INDUSTRY

France was not lost by the overwhelming strength of the German army, but mainly by her defeatist and appeasing pro-Hitler Frenchmen, who acted as the vanguard for the Nazi fifth column. This must not happen in America! The defeatists and appeasers must be exposed and cleaned out. There must be complete support of the President's war program, which includes Executive Order 8802, barring job discrimination. There is no choice--either we pull together, or die together.

Mr. Merrill, president of the Capital Transit Co., apparently is one of those who doesn't understand this simple truth. His persistent refusal to hire Negroes as street car and bus operators represents clearly a business-as-usual, discrimination-as-usual, lose-the-war policy.

Mr. Merrill insults whites as well as Negroes when he gives the flimsy excuse that "the public won't stand for it". Doesn't he know that Negroes are now operating buses and street cars in New York, Chicago, Detroit, New Jersey, and even in Florida? Why not in the Nation's Capitol?

The Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities is determined to get to the bottom of that question. The Committee is made up of representatives of city-wide organizations of various interests, including labor, civic, fraternal, and church groups. This Committee has gone to work; it will win this fight provided you, your friends, and the organization to which you belong will help win it!

You can help win this fight--a fight for full utilization of Negro manpower in order to achieve Victory--by:

1) Joining the Committee as an individual member, and getting your organization to affiliate (individual membership fees 25¢ or more; organizational fees for 3 delegates--$3.00 or more).

2) Attend regular meetings, Sundays 4:30 p.m. at the YMCA, 1816--12th St., N.W.

3) Make application for possible jobs at the Urban League, 1538 New Jersey Ave.

4) Attend the Mass Meeting to be held Tuesday evening, Nov. 3, at which the Rev. Dr. A Clayton Powell, New York's fighting minister and councilman will speak. The place and other prominent speakers will be announced later.

UFWA CALLS CONFERENCE ON JOB DISCRIMINATION

The United Federal Workers of America have issued a Call to national organizations to be held in Washington, D. C., October 18, 1942. The Call was issued in response to recognition of repeated violations of the President's Executive Order forbidding discrimination in the Federal Service. Scores of cases have been brought before UFWA, many of which have been adjusted.

The Discrimination Committee of the District Council of UFWA is hard at work on cases which will be presented at the conference, and the doors are still open to receive additional instances of the flagrant violations of the Executive Order. The Discrimination Committee will also make public the results of a recent survey to determine the status of Negro employees in the Federal Government. The survey will not give a comprehensive picture of the status of all government employees, but it will serve as a valuable index in judging the intensity of the problem of discrimination.

"Where there is no struggle there is no progress" - Frederick Douglass

WASHINGTON COUNCIL
DIGEST

Organ of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress

ROBERT McDONALD, Editor
THELMA DALE, Ass't Editor

717 FLORIDA AVE. N. W
MIchigan 2000

SPEAK OUT FOR A SECOND FRONT NOW!

ATTEND OUTDOOR MASS RALLY, OCT 12, 4:30 P.M.

More and more--despite all the efforts toward confusion and division by the enemies of democracy--the Negro people are coming to understand the real issues in this war and to take their place beside organized labor and all the progressive forces which are determined to overcome all obstacles in the way of winning victory in this People's war.

Still, there needs to be more--much more--speaking out by all of us, and especially at this critical stage of the war, as to what must be done to defeat the fascist enemy. This is our responsibility and obligation. "Defeat in the peace as well as in the war," the Washington POST stated editorially on October 1, "would be certain if the democratic peoples refrained from speaking their minds on the conduct of the war.

The Civil War would have been lost and there would have been no Emancipation

Cont. on page 2

Attend National Negro Congress
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
OCT. 12
Topic "ARE NEGROES OVERCHARGED IN NEIGHBORHOOD STORES?"
Come out and have your say
PRICE SURVEY IN D.C
Speaker from Office of Price Administration
Also Nominations of Officers and other business
P.S. AFTER OUTDOOR RALLY (4:30 P.M.) Attend the NNC Meeting Oct. 12 - 8 P.M.
Place YMCA - 1816 - 12th St. NW

UFWA CALLS CONFERENCE ON JOBS DISCRIMINATION

The United Federal Workers of America has issued a call to national organizations to attend a conference on "Discrimination Against Negroes in Federal Government", to be held in Washington, D. C., in response to recognition of repeated violations of the President's Executive Order forbidding discrimination in the Federal Service. Scores of cases have been brought before UFWA, many of which have already been adjusted.

The Discrimination Committee of the District Council of UFWA, is hard at work on cases which will be presented at the conference, and the doors are still open to receive additional instances of the flagrant violations of the Executive Order. The Discrimination Committee will also make public the results of a recent survey to determine the status of Negro employees in the Federal Government. The survey will not give a comprehensive picture of the status of all government employees, but it will serve as a valuable index in judging the intensity of the problem of discrimination

SECOND FRONT-(Cont. from p 1)

Proclamation had not the people spoken out and helped Lincoln overcome the reactionary opposition against him. In the same way we will lose this war unless we rally to the support of the President's win-the-war program and help him expose and sweep aside the defeatists and appeasers who are obstructing that program.

The key tasks which the leadership of the NNC has set for the organization in meeting this problem are set forth on the last page of this Bulletin. They should be carefully studied. The validity of these decisions is borne out by expressions of opinion found in the columns of the Negro press.

Here's one from the lead editorial of THE PEOPLE'S VOICE (Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Editor) in its September issue: "The refusal to open up a second front in support of Russia, the refusal to deal firmly with America's Fifth Column--Crackerocracy--all these make for a long war. A long war means more human lives slaughtered, more property destroyed, and an empty victory.

"It is not too late now. Steps can be taken to salvage the war and the victory. These steps must be taken immediately. INDIA MUST BE GIVEN HER INDEPENDENCE. . . OPEN A SECOND FRONT TODAY. . . WIPE OUT FIFTH COLUMN CRACKEROCRACY NOW."

And here's another from the CHICAGO DEFENDER, August 29: "The agreements to open a second front in 1942 were made in good faith. We must assure our government that the time is NOW. . . The delay incident to the opening of a second front, plays directly into the hands of the enemies of the Negro people. Time runs today in favor of lynchers, poll taxers, segregationalists, and Jim Crow promoters. Where reaction at home gets a firmer grip and the lynchers not only take heart but they get more active, seeking to stir up racial ill will and promote mob violence against Negroes. The home and foreign situations can not be separated. Our own government must recognize this fact. That is why we demand that it crack down on the whole crew of race baiters at home and begin a real offensive against Hitler abroad.

Many similar expressions could be cited. But there must be MORE. Not only our Negro press, but also our ministers' groups, our fraternal bodies, our women's and youth's clubs--all sections of the Negro people--MUST LET THEIR VOICES BE HEARD on these issues NOW! ! !

SEND LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT supporting his war program of carrying the war to the enemy.

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS SAID THIS
IN 1939
WHY ISN'T IT TRUE NOW!

". . . I desire to mention . . . the effect upon the European situation and upon our difficulties in Europe, which our refusal to grant a further measure of self-government to India at this time is likely to have: I believe that effect will be shown in three ways. First, among a large number of our own people it will demonstrate the unreality of the professions of this government about the freedom which they desire and will, thereby, seriously diminish the unity and the force of our war effort. Secondly, I believe that among neutrals, and particularly in the United States of America, where there is very great interest in the Indian situation, it will reinforce isolationist and anti-British tendencies. . . Thirdly--and this fact we must face fairly and squarely--a hostile non-cooperative India, with all the dangers of conflict in India which that is bound to bring, if tempers are exacerbated, is certainly not going to help us in our difficulties, and may become a grave hindrance.

. . . If we profess to be fighting this war for freedom and democracy and deny it to a part of the British empire which, on our own admission and on the governor-general's admission, is fully fit for self-government, the Indian people will say, "This is only another case of the British professing one thing and doing another." I believe that if we did so, we should be

(Cont. on p 4)

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

"At our last Administrative Committee meeting, held in New York City, August 31, 1942, an exhaustive discussion of the role of the National Negro Congress brought forth these conclusions:

"1. That the National Negro Congress has exercised a desicive, responsible leadership among the Negro people in making them aware, through the publication of the national policy statement reaching several million people that "THIS IS OUR WAR," and the Negro people's demands for full and equal participation in it represent correct demands for winning the war.

"2. That the military crisis which now imperils the victory of the United Nations andwith it the very life of our country, demands a bolder and more forthright leadership on the part of leaders of the Negro people, including leaders of the Congress in the direction of uniting our people in support of the President for the immediate, necessary steps, including the question of the second front, for winning the war.

"3. That the peoples' character of the war, which is rapidly becoming more fully developed, calls for active Congress leadership in broadening and deepening the fight to establish the poll tax, thus routing the defeatists, anti-labor, anti-Negro, pro-Hitler forces, and paving the way for the immediate removal of every obstacle that prevents our realizing the immediate win-the-war demands of the Negro people. . ."

THE WASHINGTON COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDORSES THIS STATEMENT, and adopts it as a program of work. To invite comment on it from all our affiliates, delegates, and friends.

PRICE SURVEY (Cont.)

It is common knowledge that Negroes in urban communities are generally exploited by food merchants in two ways: higher prices, and inferior quality of food stuffs. The NAACP made a note-worthy price survey in New York this summer. It was discovered that food prices in Harlem are as much as 10% higher than in other sections of that city. What about Washington?

The Executive Committee of the Washington Council NNC proposes that a survey of food prices be launched. The purpose of this survey will be to: (1) collect facts on violation of price regulations. (2) Expose those stores which arenot cooperating with the OPA, and which are victimizing Negro customers. (3) Refer information regarding such source to the OPA and demand action be taken against them.

A STEP FORWARD—

Let's Use It to Help Beat the Enemy — NOW!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A New Opportunity Opens to the Negro to Help Win the War

NEGRO NAVAL VOLUNTEERS, formerly restricted to service as messmen, may now enlist in the Navy, M. Corps, and Coast Guard. Progress has been made.

THIS PROGRESSIVE STEP, like the recent advances made by the Negro in industrial and government employ relating to the war effort, gives further proof of the fact that just as we Negroes put our whole efforts unsparingly into this against fascism—remember the noble example of Joe Louis—just so will we be able to win for ourselves our full share of d cratic rights. For this is a People's War—a war requiring full mobilization of the people in the defense of their own inte their own homes and loved ones, their own lives.

THE NEGRO MUST AND WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE of this new opportunity for service in this war. In doing this, in the very process of helping to win the war, he will achieve still further and greater democrat

Dorie Miller Has Shown Us the Way to Further Progress

WHEN THE JAPANESE PLANES attacked Pearl Harbor, Dorie Miller, a Negro messman, came out of his kit took charge of an anti-aircraft gun, and began blazing away at the enemy. He also helped rescue the wounded captain, c ship. Now he is being considered for a Congressional Medal of Honor. He nobly deserves it.

THIS NEGRO HERO has pointed out the road to progress for us. In the spirit of Dorie Miller, let us join the N the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. There is a job waiting to be done. Let thousands of Negroes demonstrate to the their ability and heroism in naval warfare. THIS is the way to break down all remaining barriers in the armed forces.

Now, for a Second European Front to Smash the Axis

REAL ALL-OUT PARTICIPATION of the Negro people is one thing necessary to the winning of the war. A all-out offensive against the axis is another necessity. The war will not be won—will not be won without much costly sac of men and supplies—unless the United Nations *carry the war to the enemy.*

THE NEGRO PEOPLE KNOW what is at stake for them in this war. They know that a victory for f

Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities

VICTORY MASS MEETING

On Employment of Negroes as Drivers at Capital Transit Company

Sunday December 20 1942, 8 p. m.

Zion Baptist Church

F Street Between 3rd & 4th Streets S. W.

ATTEND THE MEETING!

Chairman of Meeting:

MRS. THERESA LEE ROBINSON
Chairman of Civil Liberties Committee of the Elks

SPEAKERS:

JOHN P. DAVIS
Executive Secretary National Negro Congress

DOXEY A. WILKERSON
President of Local 440 American Federation of Teachers, A.F. of L.

THEODORE A. JONES
Administrative Assistant of the Staff of Fair Employment Practices Committee, War Manpower Commission

RUSS NIXON
Washington Representative, National Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, C. I. O.

REV. A. JOSEPH EDWARDS
Pastor, Zion Baptist Church

JOHN T. RHINES
President Southwest Civic Association

2001 Eleventh Street, N. W. DUpont 6250

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WELCH

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY.

It was publicly announced on page 5 of the January 23, 1943, issue of the "Pittsburgh Courier," a militant Negro publication published in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that Dr. Max Yergan, National President of the National Negro Congress, announced the resignation of the Administrative Secretary of the Congress, Mr. George B. Murphy, Jr., who recently resigned his post to join the United States Army after two years of outstanding service to the organization.

He further announced that Miss Thelma M. Dale of Washington, D. C., had been named as successor to George B. Murphy, Jr., as Administrative Secretary of the Congress.

RECORDED
&
Respectfully,

E. H. Winterrowd

100-6128-283

FEB 17 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

FEB 24 1943

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Form No. 1
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REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES	2/15/43	2/13/43	[redacted] b7c ahb

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Ten-Point Victory Legislative Program of National Negro Congress of 1943 set out showing N.N.C. adherence to the Communist Party line. Officers of the Los Angeles Council shown. Negro Victory Committee has more or less superseded Los Angeles chapter of N.N.C.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] b7c Los Angeles, 2/25/41.

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

From a review of Negro newspapers and outside investigation, the following report is being submitted.

The California Eagle, prominent Los Angeles Negro newspaper, in the issue of February 10, 1943, contained an article entitled, "NNC Tells 10-Point Legislative Program." This article is quoted in its entirety as follows:

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"EDWARD E. STRONG, National Secretary, announced here today a ten-point Victory Legislative Program of the National Negro Congress of 1943 and called upon Negro people and their allies to join in support of the program. An emergency meeting of the National Executive Board of NNC has been called to ratify this program and to mobilize 15 million Negro Americans and their allies to support it in order to secure full participation of the Negro people in the war program of our Nation.

"Complete text of the NNC Legislative Program follows:

"1. Support of the win-the-war policies of the Administration. The National Negro Congress pledges its strength and resources towards the full mobilization of 15 million Negro Americans to back the win-the-war domestic and foreign policies of President Roosevelt as indispensable for the victory of our Nation over fascist aggression and for the realization of full citizenship rights for all minority groups.

"2. Repeal of the Poll-Tax. With the key Congressional Committees headed and cominated by Poll-Tax Congressmen, a primary issue confronting all win-the-war forces in the nation today is the immediate repeal of the poll tax laws which prevent 10 million people in the South from voting.

"3. Centralized war economy. The NNC joins the organized labor movement in full support of the Pepper-Kelgore Bill, and further calls for:

"a. Maximum use of all available manpower.

"b. Democratic enforcement of rationing of essential commodities, price and rent control.

"4. Enactment and enforcement of Anti-Lynching Legislation. The curse of lynching still threatens the lives of two-thirds of the Negro people who reside in the South. The very existence of this threat is inimical to the democratic aims of the war of liberation which is being fought, and jeopardizes the complete faith in the Government of the United States which the millions of oppressed peoples throughout the world must have in order to give full support to the United Nations.

"5. War Social Legislation. A war-time program to keep the home-front in tact which will include:

"a. Housing, health and recreational program.

"b. National child-car program.

"c. Adequate schools and equalization of teachers' salaries.

"6. Food for Victory Program.

"We call for the more rapid extension of the policies of the Farm Security Administration (which provide for loans and other forms of assistance) to allow sharecroppers, tenant farmers and the small farm owner to make their maximum contribution to the Food for Victory Program.

"We oppose present efforts of the spokesmen of monopoly farm owners to scuttle the work of the Farm Security Administration as a part of the anti-war conspiracy of the reactionary forces at work in Congress in the Department of Agriculture.

"7. Labor. One of the strongest forces in support of freedom and opportunity for all people and therefore one of the strongest allies of the Negro people is the organized labor movement in this country. In order to effectively mobilize the American people for victory in the war and full citizenship rights, labor's rights must be safeguarded through:

"a. Preservation of the 40 hour week.

"b. Full power and authority to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

"c. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

"d. Opposition to the Dies Committee, the Hobbs Bill and all other fascist anti-labor legislation.

"8. Taxation. The NNC supports a just and equitable program of taxation which is based upon ability to pay.

"9. Unequivocal enforcement of the 13, 14, 15th Amendments to the Constitution. We call for stringent enforcement of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes and demand that the Department of Justice take necessary action to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan, the White Supremacists and other fascists movements.

"10. Full and Equal Participation of the Negro People in all phases of the war effort. We call for adequate representation of Negroes in executive positions in all Federal government agencies which is designed to destroy protective social legislation for women."

The local chapter of the National Negro Congress has not been very active in the Los Angeles region for the past several months due to the fact that the Negro Victory Committee, a local organization, has more or less superseded it and is carrying on the same work as the National Negro Congress. The individual

who have been the leaders in the local chapter of the National Negro Congress are also among the leaders of the National Victory Committee. The activities of the National Victory Committee have been set out in a separate report.

A letterhead of the Los Angeles Council of the National Negro Congress dated September 9, 1941 shows that the Los Angeles officers are:

CHARLES E. PEARL, President
MARY E. TROY - Vice President
A. T. PATRICK - Executive Secretary
ALBERT T. COLLINS - Corresponding Secretary - Treasurer

The members of the Executive Board are shown as follows:

P. C. PARKS	REVEREND T. F. JONES
ARLENA GORDON	CLAUDIUS TROY
JOHN OWENS	H. A. POLLARD
JESSIE E. TERRY	OWEN L. KNOX
F. B. GATES	J. W. FREEMAN
SIDNEY MOORE	ANNA MARCH
A. D. McMURRAY	ZERLEASE SHALBERGER

CW Miami 5/21/-- FTU

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Through an anonymous telephone call to ADELE YOUNG, [redacted] member of importance of the National Negro Congress, it was learned that the Los Angeles Council of the National Negro Congress has held no election of officers since September of 1941 and that the above list of officers still hold their positions.

The California Eagle issue of December 18, 1942 on the first page entitled, "Mass Meeting Hits Railway, Slum Housing," carries an article stating that a mass meeting was held on Sunday evening, December 13, 1942 at the First AME Church, 8th and Towne Avenue, Los Angeles, under the sponsorship of the Negro Victory Committee, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Negro Congress. The purpose of the meeting was to plan a march on the Los Angeles Railway headquarters if the firm did not change its anti-Negro employment policy and the program also blasted slum housing for Negro war workers which is inforced by the Federal Housing Projects in Los Angeles.

MAX YERGAN, President of the National Negro Congress, was in Los Angeles from July 20th to July 22nd, 1942 with PAUL ROBESON; both of these men were speakers on a program of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee on July 20, 1942 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California [redacted]

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EHW:PMC

February 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WELCH

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY

There appeared on page 6 of the February 6, 1943, issue of the "Black Dispatch," Negro newspaper published in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, an article relating that Edward B. Strong had been named Executive Secretary of the National Negro Congress to succeed John P. Davis who resigned after years of distinguished service to enter private law practice.

It may be noted that Strong is a native of Texas and a graduate of the Central Young Men's Christian Association College in Chicago, Illinois. He served as the first Executive Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress and also as Field Secretary of the National Council of Negro Youth.

Respectfully,

E. H. Winterrowd

E. H. Winterrowd

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

58 FEB 25 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/79 BY SP-1 GSR/aH

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

MET: JMW
100-3633

March 6th, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:-

There are being transmitted herewith the original and one copy of the report of [redacted] dated February 22nd, 1943, setting out information relative to the meeting of the National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress.

It will be noted on page 2 of Informant's report that the Congress is planning a series of three regional meetings, one to be held in New York City April 11th and 12th, 1943, and the other two to be held in San Francisco, California and Detroit, Michigan in May and June respectively, 1943.

The San Francisco and Detroit Field Divisions have been advised of the meetings planned, and have been requested to cover and report on the activities.

[redacted] will follow and report on future activities of this organization at New York City.

Two copies of Informant's report are being retained in the New York City office for information purposes.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

RECORDED & INDEXED
D139

Enclosures (2)
cc: N.Y. File #65-10519

61-6728-285
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59 MAR 19 1943

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National Negro Congress
Meeting of the National Executive Board [illegible]
Harlem Branch Y.M.C.A.
Dr. Max Yergan presided.

National Officers:

Dr. Max Yergan, National President.

Edward E. Strong, National Executive Secretary.

Thelma Dale, National Administrative Secretary.

Hope Stevens, Legal Representative.

National Executive Board Members:

Goldie Ervin Watson, Philadelphia, Pa.

James W. Ford, New York.

Charles Collins, New York.

Ferdinand Smith, New York.

Dr. W.A. Hunton, Washington D.C.

Professor Doxey A. Wilkerson, Washington D.C.

William L. Harrison, Boston, Mass.

Dr. J.S. Borne, Boston Mass.

Lebron Simmons, Detroit, Michigan

Louis Burnham, Birmingham, Alabama.

All the National Officers are included on the National Executive Board.

Absentees:

James W. Ford, Charles Collins, Ferdinand Smith, Lebron Simmons.

James W. Ford was represented by Benjamin Davis Jr.
Charles Collins was represented by Dorothy Funn
Ferdinand Smith was represented by E. "Smitty" Smith
Lebron Simmons was represented by Vera Carter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/79 BY [illegible]

ENCLOSURE
61-6728-285

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National Negro Congress Continued.....

Regional Conferences Planned:

Three regional Conferences are planned, in [illegible] San Francisco, California and Detroit Michigan. The New York Coference will be held April 11th and [illegible] The other conferences will be held at a later date [illegible] yet decided, during May and June respectfully.

Objectives of the Congress:

Rally Negroes throughout the country for victory and full citizenship rights.

Abolition of the Poll Tax.

Integration of Negroes in all defense industries as a [illegible] pre-condition to the full utilization Negro manpower.

Combat chauvinistic presentation of the Negro on the stage screen and radio.

Unity of the Negro with the organized labor groups and all progressive forces.

Finances:

Thelma Dale called for the raising of $24,000 for the building branches of the National Negro Congress throughout the country.

Whose Who:

Dr. Max Yergan, Head of the International Committee on African Affairs. Treasurer of the Peoples' Voice. Active participant [redacted] Communist front organizational Member of the Communist Party. [redacted]

Edward E. Strong. Member National Committee Young Communist League. Organizer of the Southern Youth Congress. Has been active in youth groups, according to my recollection, for more than nine years.

Thelma Dale. Worked with John P. Davis in the National Negro Congress in Washington D.C.

Hope Stevens. Attorney at Law. [redacted] Has been active in Communist fro[redacted] years.

Goldie Ervin Watson. [redacted] Has been active in the National Negro Congress since its inception

[redacted]

National Negro Congress continued

Those who Continued:

James W. Ford, Member National [redacted]

[redacted]

Actively engaged in Communist Party activi[redacted]

[redacted]

Pamphlets and books.[redacted]

Charles Collins, Business Agent, Hotel and Club Employes [redacted]
Local 6, A.F. of L.

[redacted] Executive Secretary, Negro [redacted]
Council.

[redacted]

Ferdinand Smith, National Secretary, National [redacted]
C.I.O. [redacted]

Professor Doxey A. Wilkerson, [redacted]
Ego[redacted] Has worked with
the National Negro Congress since its inception. He is a
Professor at Howard University, in Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Davis Jr. [redacted]

Dorothy Funn, Administrative Secretary Negro Labor Victory
Committee. [redacted]

E. "Smitty" Smith, delegate National Maritime Union. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at: NEW YORK, NEW YORK — NY File No. 100-3633 JNW

Report Made at	Date When Made	Period for which made	Report Made By
NEW YORK, NEW YORK	3/15/43	2/26,27/43	093525 [redacted] b7C

Title	Character of Case
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

35728

Synopsis of Facts: The national office of the National Negro Congress is located at 307 Lenox Avenue, N.Y.C. Names of national officers and executive board members set out. EDWARD E. STRONG has replaced JOHN P. DAVIS as National Executive Secretary and THELMA DALE has replaced GEORGE E. MURPHY JR. as National Administrative Secretary. [redacted] b7D

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] at New York City, dated May 22nd, 1942. b7C

DETAILS: The present address of the national office and Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress is 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City, room 205.

The following is a list of the National Officers, and National Executive Board Members:--

National Officers:

Dr. MAX YERGAN, National President
EDWARD E. STRONG, National Executive Secretary
THELMA DALE, National Administrative Secretary

E. E. Conroy jm

Copies of This Report
- Bureau
2 - San Francisco
2 - Detroit
1 - Capt. R.C. MacFall (ONI)
1 - Col. S.V. Constant (G-2)
1 - Washington (Information)
3 - New York

59 APR 1

19 MAR 18 1943

INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/26/79 BY SP1 65K/RH

HOPE STEVENS, Legal Representative

-National Executive Board Members:

GOLDIE ERVIN WATSON, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
JAMES W. FORD, New York
CHARLES COLLINS, New York
FERDINAND SMITH, New York
Dr. W. A. HUNTON, Washington, D. C.
Professor DOXEY A. WILKERSON, Washington, D. C.
WILLIAM L. HARRISON, Boston, Massachusetts
Dr. J. S. BORIE, Boston, Massachusetts
LEBRON SIMMONS, Detroit, Michigan
LOUIS BURNHAM, Birmingham, Alabama

35729

The Peoples' Voice, a Negro newspaper, published in New York City, in the issue dated January 16th, 1943, carried an article which stated that THELMA DALE had replaced GEORGE B. MURPHY JR. as National Administrative Secretary of the National Negro Congress. DALE comes from Washington, D. C. where she is reported to have been Junior Editor of the Employment Security Review, house organ of the United States Employment Service. She was also active as a leader in the American Youth Movement. MURPHY has been inducted into the United States Army.

[redacted] advised by report dated January 14th, 1943 that JOHN P. DAVIS, National Executive Secretary of the National Negro Congress had resigned and returned to the practice of law. He advised, however, that DAVIS is still active, working with the National Committee to abolish the Poll Tax. EDWARD E. STRONG is now the Executive Secretary.

b7D

ACTIVITIES:

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

The present objectives of the Congress are:-

Rally the negroes throughout the country for victory and full citizenship rights.

35730

Abolition of the Poll Tax.

Integration of Negroes in all defense industries as a necessary pre-condition to the full utilization of Negro manpower.

Combat chauvinistic presentation of the Negro on the stage, screen and radio.

Unity of the Negro with the organized labor groups and all progressive forces.

THELMA DALE, Administrative Secretary, called for the raising of $24,000 for the building of branches of the National Negro Congress throughout the country.

The Peoples' Voice in an issue dated January 30th, 1943, states that the National Negro Congress has plans for the formation of a nationwide coordinating organization to serve the Federal employment practice committee under the title "Associated Organization on Manpower and Fair Employment Practice". Seventeen (17) allied groups were reported to be joining with the National Negro Congress in the movement which plans an emergency national conference of the leaders of both races in Washington, D. C., local conferences on war employment and discrimination in cities throughout the country, a delegation to Washington, and special radio broadcasts on national hookups.

[redacted], in reported dated October 25th, 1942, advised that the National Negro Congress, the National Emergency Committee to Stop Lynching, and the Salem Lyceum held a meeting in the Salem Methodist Church 129th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City on October 25th, 1942. Approximately 1,200 persons attended this meeting. The Reverend CHARLES YOUNG TRIGG is pastor of the Salem Methodist Church.

67D

The speakers at the meeting were:-

Dr. MAX YERGAN, President of the National Negro Congress.
Reverend CHARLES YOUNG BRIGG.
Mrs. IMA WOODS, one of the group tried for criminal syndicalism in Oklahoma.
Congressman JOSEPH GAVAGAN.
CHARLES COLLINS.
ADAM HULL, Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City, also Councilman, Co-publisher of the Peoples' Voice and an active member of many of the Communist Front Groups.
FERDINAND SMITH
BENJAMIN DAVIS JR.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR POLETTI
GEORGE B. MURPHY JR.
Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO
EDMOND H. COLLINS, Bishop of the General Coptic Church.

35731

The general theme of all of the speakers was in protest against recent lynchings of Negroes, and the poll tax. Several of the speakers made an appeal for a second front and the freedom of India. Statements in more detail made by each of these speakers are reflected in the report of [redacted] and are not being set out in detail in this report. Copies of [redacted] report have previously been furnished the Bureau, and a copy has been made part of the file in this case in the New York City office.

There have been no reports of any activity on the part of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, with the exception of a flag raising ceremony which took place October 4th, 1942 under the auspices of the National Negro Congress and the Citizens of 119th Street. The National Negro Congress was represented in the flag raising by HOPE R. STEVENS, President of the Manhattan Council, MONI MORELOCKER, Executive Secretary, ETHEL BLUMOND, Administrative Secretary and THEODORE LEWIS, Treasurer.

HOPE R. STEVENS, speaking for the National Negro Congress called for the persistent struggle for Negro rights, and stressed the imperative need for the opening of a second front.

CHARLES COLLINS, a member of the Executive Board of the National Negro Congress also spoke. His talk dealt primarily with the need for a second front. He contended that any delay would mean the loss of millions of Negro boys. He accused the Government of blundering in delaying the opening of the second front. He strongly denounced the heads of the Government and the United Nations for failure to declare war on

Finland, and he urged the audience to demand that we declare war on [illegible] Finland.

[redacted] in report dated February 22nd, 1943 furnished the following information concerning officers and members of the National Negro Congress:- b7

Dr. MAX YERGAN, head of the International Committee on African Affairs; Treasurer of the Peoples' Voice; active participant in Communist Front Organizations; member of the Communist Party; [redacted] 33782 b7D

EDWARD F. STRONG, member of the National Committee of the Young Communist League; Organizer of the Southern Youth Congress; and active in youth groups, according [redacted] recollection, for more than nine (9) years. b7D

HOPE [illegible]WIMS, Attorney at Law [redacted] and active in Communist Front Organizations for several years. b7C

GOLDIE [illegible]RVIN [illegible]MSON, [redacted] and active in the National Negro Congress since its inception. b7C

JAMES W. FORD, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party; [redacted] actively engaged in communist party activities in the United States [redacted] and author of many Party pamphlets and books. b7D

CHARLES COLLINS, business agent of the Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local #6, A.F. of L.; [redacted] b7CD

FERDINAND SMITH, National Secretary of the National Maritime Union, C.I.O.; [redacted] National Maritime Union and actively engaged in Party Front Organizations; also on the Board of Directors of the Peoples' Voice. b7D

Professor DONTY A. WILKERSON visited Russia about ten years ago; worked with the National Negro Congress since its inception; is a Professor at Howard University in Washington, D. C.

BENJAMIN DAVIS JR., Executive Secretary of the Upper Harlem Section of the Communist Party.

DOROTHY FUNN, Administrative Secretary of the "Negro Labor Victory Committee, [redacted]

D. "SMITTY" SMITH, Delegate of the National Maritime Union, [redacted]

- P E N D I N G -

35733

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

At San Francisco, will make the necessary arrangements to cover and report on the activities of the regional conference of the National Negro Congress, scheduled to be held in San Francisco May, 1943.

35734

DETROIT FIELD DIVISION

At Detroit, will make the necessary arrangements to cover and report on the activities of the regional conference of the National Negro Congress, scheduled to be held in Detroit June, 1943.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

b7D

At New York City, will maintain contact with [redacted] and [redacted] of the New York Office.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

35718

This case originated at: NEW YORK CITY SA file No. 100-220

Report made at	Date Made	Period	Report Made By
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	3-13-43	12/24,26/42; 1/11/43	[redacted] b7C AJN:JB.

Title:	Character of Case
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: MASON SMITH, Austin, Texas, first endeavored to organize the National Negro Congress in Texas in February, 1939 and pamphlet obtained outlining sponsors, participants, and endorsers of the Congress at that time. [redacted] states SMITH'S organizational activity was not successful and that no effort has been made to solicit membership for the group since that time. However, in June, 1942, SMITH sponsored a Wartime Emergency Conference for negro people at Austin and names of participants later obtained [redacted] b7D

- P -

b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, dated 9/23/42.

DETAILS: AT AUSTIN, TEXAS: —

[redacted] advised the writer that MASON SMITH, editor of the Texas Inter-Racial Review, [redacted] Austin, Texas, had attempted to organize a unit of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS in Austin in 1939 but that the effort had failed because SMITH could not concentrate on organizing a few major units, but endeavored to take in every city in the State of Texas, as a result of which he did not devote enough time to the individual units and as a result, the members lost interest and finally, b7D

Attached - Part File

Approved R. C. Suran SAC

Copies of this Report:

5 Bureau - Enclosures
2 New York - Enclosures
2 Houston - Enclosures
2 Dallas - Enclosures
1 MID, Dallas 3 San Antonio
2 ONI: San Antonio

19 MAR 18 1943

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FBI

JB.

to the best of [redacted] knowledge, all units were disbanded. He further advised that as far as known, the CONGRESS has not operated in the vicinity of Austin since that time. He also advised that MAURY MAVERICK, former Mayor of San Antonio, was the principal speaker at Austin at a three day meeting held at Wesley Chapel and that a number of prominent negroes were present at this meeting.

35719

b7D

[redacted] advised that in 1939 SMITH issued a call for a Texas negro peoples congress which was a branch unit of the National Negro Congress to be held in the Wesley Chapel in Austin, Texas on February 24 to 26, 1939 and that Reverend CHARLES E. WHITIKER, Pastor of Wesley Chapel and District Superintendant of the Negro Methodist Church, assisted SMITH in the arrangements. [redacted] However, it was his idea that approximately 200 negroes were in attendance at the state-wide meeting and that although an effort was made to form a permanent committee, nothing ever developed from the meeting and SMITH did not concentrate on the units already formed. The meetings were held at L. D. LYONS HALL and SMITH continued to rent that space for a period of about a month after the conference to conduct organizational activities, however, [redacted] advised that since that time he has had no information that the Congress is presently functioning in the vicinity of Austin, other than that SMITH organized and promoted a War Time Emergency Conference for the negro people of Texas at Austin, Texas on June 18, 1942, the membership of which was similar to that of the first congress and which he himself attended.

b7D

[redacted] that in his opinion there was nothing un-American about either meeting and that SMITH appeared to be somewhat aloof from the negroes in Austin and probably he did not carry great weight in the negro community there. It was [redacted] impression that the Texas Negro Chamber of Commerce, Dallas, Texas, put out a publication two years ago in which it listed all the known negro organizations and he believed that the names of the members of the National Negro Congress at that time from Texas were listed therein.

b7D

[redacted] furnished the writer with the original program, entitled, "CALL FOR A TEXAS NEGRO PEOPLES CONGRESS", February 24 to 26, 1939, at the conference headquarters, Lyons Building, 516½ E. 6th Street, Austin, Texas. Photostatic copies of the pamphlet were obtained and are being transmitted to the Bureau, Dallas, Houston, and New York Offices herewith.

In the program under the heading "GENERAL CHAIRMAN AND STATE DIRECTOR." was listed "MASON SMITH, Waco, Associate Editor, Waco Messenger; State Director, National Negro Congress; Vice Chairman, Texas League for Peace and Democracy; Sponsor, Southern Conference for Human Welfare and Member of Southern Council."

35720

Under the heading "SPONSORSHIP AND PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE" the following appeared:

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS GROUPS: C. F. Richardson, Houston. Editor and Publisher, Houston Defender; President, Houston Branch, N. A. A. C. P.; State Chairman, Texas Council of N. A. A. C. P. Branches. O. E. FITZGERALD, San Antonio, President, San Antonio Branch N. A. A. C. P.; Sepia Mayor of San Antonio; Judge Advocate, Afro-American Legion. PROF. E. A. JOHNSON, Austin. President, Austin Citizens' Council.

HEALTH GROUPS: DR. C. C. ANDREWS, San Antonio. Physician-in-charge, Children's Clinic; Medical Adviser, Nursery School. DR. C. R. WOODS, Austin. Secretary, State Medical Association.

HOUSING: ELISHA THOMPSON, San Antonio. Civic Leader and Businessman; Investigator for Slum Clearance Project Committee, San Antonio Negro Chamber of Commerce. J. E. MOSBY, JR., Austin. Active in the Building Trade.

CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS: REV. J. WALT MOORE, Waco. District Superintendent, Methodist Episcopal Church. REV. J. V. P. COLLINS, Austin, Presiding Elder, African Methodist Episcopal Church. JOHN [illegible], San Antonio. San Antonio District Layman's League.

EDUCATIONAL GROUPS: JOHN W. PRICE. Houston. Executive Secretary, Colored Teachers' State Association. F. L. KLEVEN, Teague. School Principal and Community Leader.

YOUTH GROUPS: REV. CHARLES WARREN, Dallas. National Officer, Methodist Young Peoples Organization. Miss EURETTA K. FAIRCHILDS, San Antonio, Secretary, Pine Street YWCA; Vice-President, Texas Conference of N. A. A. C. P. Branches. FRITZ CANSLER, Dallas. Secretary, Loerland Branch. Y. M. C. A. Active Youth and Civic Leader.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS: N. L. FLAGGS, San Antonio. President, San Antonio Local, International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL). PAYTON BUTLER, San Antonio. President, Chauffeurs' Club. MRS. [illegible] BOONE, San Antonio. Executive, Workers Alliance Local.

WOMEN'S GROUPS: MRS. A. B. DELENT, Mineral Wells, Past State President and Executive. Federated Colored Women's Clubs. MRS. A. E. S. JOHNSON, Marlin. Past State President, Federated Colored Women's Clubs, Central Texas Educational Leader.

FARMERS AND FARM ORGANIZATIONS: J. E. CLAYTON, Houston and Littig. Teacher and Farmers' Organization Executive. S. T. ATONEY, Seguin. Farm Leader, Guadalupe County.

In the program is a paragraph entitled, "ENDORSERS OF THE TEXAS NEGRO PEOPLE'S CONGRESS", stating, "The call for the Texas Negro People's Congress has been endorsed by the following named citizens of Texas:

357[illegible]1

AUSTIN: E. A. Johnson, Rev. J. B. V. Coins, Prof. F. R. Rice, A. B. Purcell, J. E. Mosby, Jr., Dr. Mary E. Branch, Rev. C. E. Whitaker, Mrs. L. E. Durden, J. M. Driver, M. Davis, Rev. H. T. Randell, C. M. Thompson, Andrew Fosby, R. H. Baker, Mrs. E. L. Barton, Prof. E. B. Campbell, L. V. Randolph, Prof. L. Q. Hurdle, O. R. Lott, [illegible] Shannon, C. B. King, John Creasy, Frank Williams, Dr. C. R. Yerwood, Dr. E. H. Givens, Col. L. D. Lyons, Prof. J. D. Martin, Mrs. C. H. Christian, Mrs. B. Steward, J. B. Jackson, Thomas Estes, W. F. Fisher, Prof. J. L. McNealy, [illegible] H. Fuller, Dr. L. A. Woods, Dr. Gordon Worley.

DALLAS: Fritz Cansler, Rev. Charles Kirren.

WACO: Rev. J. Walt Moore, L. J. Rhone, C. F. Cooke, Mason Smith.

SAN ANTONIO: Miss Euretta K. Fairchilds, W. L. Flaggs, Mrs. Rachael Graves, J. [illegible] Reynolds, Prof. Samuel Scott, Payton Butler, O. E. Fitzgerald, John Inman, James Russell, E. [illegible] Taylor, Dr. John Sutton, William Allwood, J. E. Thompson, Mrs. O. J. Carter, Rev. G. [illegible] Deslandes, G. J. Sutton, Mrs. L. W. Sutton, Taylor, Dr. C. C. Andrews, Mrs. Roberta Mitchell, Mrs. E. L. Lewis, Prof. S. J. Sutton, Elisha Thompson, Mrs. George Lambert, Cameron Booker, U. G. Andrews, Valmo Bellinger, Mrs. S. E. Boone, Oliver Johnson.

FORT WORTH: Dr. Edwin A. Elliott.

GEORGETOWN: Dr. John C. Granberry.

WOLFE CITY: HON. R. L. SMITH, President, F. I. S. Agricultural College, Founder and President, Farmers' Improvement Society; Only Surviving Negro Legislator of Texas.

MARLIN: Mrs. A. E. S. Johnson.

TEAGUE: F. L. Kirven.

SEGUIN: Prof. S. T. Toney.

HOUSTON: C. F. Richardson, Prof. J. W. Rice, Mrs. Inez Crawford, Prof. J. E. Clayton, Rev. L. V. Bolton.

MINERAL WELLS: Mrs. A. B. Dument.

[redacted] b7D

According to the pamphlets obtained, this meeting was designated as an emergency call for the purpose of backing the war effort but [redacted] stated that the members throughout appeared to be stressing the removal of discrimination against negroes by the right to vote and racial equality. The attendance was reported as sixty persons and represented negroes from Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Marshall, San Marcos and Brady. O. G. LAWLESS, a professor of mathematics at Sam Huston College, a negro, made the remark that the race would do all it could for the war but would expect something in return. b7D

A permanenet committee was set up to perpetuate the organization. This committee consisted of the following members: MASON SMITH, O. G. LAWLESS and Reverend J. J. THOMAS of Austin; J. P. MICKEY, A. RICHARDSON and J. H. WOODS of Houston; R. S. WHITE of Brady; NELSON DIXON, G. J. SUTTON, and Mrs. C. P. HOLLOMAN of San Antonio. Principal speakers were the following negro members of the CIO at Houston, Texas: JOHN H. WOODS, D. G. KOHLER and P. W. MULLIN.

The following committees functioned during the conference:

Conference Officers: MASON SMITH, Chairman; EVERETT H. GIVENS Austin, Secretary; O. G. LAWLESS, Austin, Assistant Secretary.

Control Committee: All of the above and NELSON DIXON, San Antonio, and Dr. JOSEPH J. RHODES, Race Relations Advisor of the Office of Civilian Defense.

Labor Committee: WARREN JONES; A. L. ROYSTER; O. H. ELLIOTT; L. R. HOLLAND.

Rural Committee: Mrs. JESSIE SHELTON.

Youth Committee: Mrs. P. HOLLOWAY; J. L. McNEALLY; C. J. SHACKLES.

From the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 11, 1942 at Houston, Texas [redacted] b7C b7D

it was noted that [redacted] a list of names, entitled, "WARTIME EMERGENCY CONFERENCE" [redacted]

50 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
b/5

☐ For your information: _____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
61-6728-287 pp 6 & 7

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
DELETED PAGE(S)
NO DUPLICATION FEE
FOR THIS PAGE
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

[redacted] b7D

AT WACO, TEXAS: 35725

[redacted] b7D

but found no evidence of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS being active in Waco.

[redacted] advised that he was unable to develop any indications that the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS was active in Waco.

[redacted] Texas, stated that he had never heard of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and feels certain that he would have provided it was functioning in Waco, inasmuch as he is in close contact with the negro element. b7D

[redacted] advised they had heard nothing indicating that any branch of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS was active in Waco. b7D

PENDING.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

AT DALLAS, TEXAS will contact the Negro Chamber of Commerce, 62½ Goode Street and endeavor to ascertain if a publication was released by that organization 2 years ago setting out the names of prominent negroes and organizations to which they belonged, with particular reference to the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and its officials.

Will check the indices of the Dallas Field Division for the names of those persons mentioned in the body of this report within the Dallas Field Division to determine if previous information is on file for these individuals.

35726

THE HOUSTON FIELD DIVISION

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS will check the indices of the Houston Field Division for the names of those persons mentioned in the body of this report within the Houston Field Division to determine if previous information is on file for these individuals.

THE SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS will retain contact with [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining additional information regarding members and activities of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS. b7D

Will re-contact [redacted] for any additional information relative to the National Negro Congress.

Will check the indices for the names of persons mentioned in the body of this report within the San Antonio Field Division, to determine if previous information is on file for these individuals.

P E N D I N G

50 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 100-8464

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES	3/15/43	3/2-5/43	[redacted] b7c KH

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MAX YERGAN, President, NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, and PAUL ROBESON, Chairman, COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, attended reception at home of SHERIDAN GIBNEY on 3/2/43 along with other Communists and fellow travelers. Contacts of YERGAN set out. NNC plans on Eastern Seaboard Conference on the Problems of the War and the Negro People in NYC for April 10 and 11, 1943 [redacted] Plans for conference in mid-west and Pacific Coast also made.

b7c

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, 2/15/43.

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/26/79 BY [illegible]

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Instant file is being reopened to report the following information:

b7D

Through [redacted] it was learned that a reception was to be given for YERGAN and ROBESON at the home of SHERIDAN GIBNEY, 7942 Hollywood Boulevard, on the night of March 2, 1943. GIBNEY is a former President of the SCREEN WRITERS' GUILD, an organization which consistently follows the Communist Party line.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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61-1672

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1 MAR 19 1943

APR 21 1961

[redacted]

b7D

Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] ascertained that the following automobiles were parked in the vicinity of SHERIDAN GIBNEY's home on the night of March 2, 1943: (Agents' notes are being retained in instant file) b7C

1943 California license number	Description of car	Registered to
9 R 7798	1939 Cadillac 8, 4-door sedan (Texas formerly)	LESTER COLE 12746 Kling Street North Hollywood
87 S 972	1940 Buick sedan	JOHN HOWARD LAWSON 4542 Coldwater Canyon North Hollywood
8 S 5292	Buick 8 sport coupe	DOROTHY SEGALL 6200 Franklin Avenue Hollywood
9 S 778	1939 Ford coupe (Legal owner, Bank of America, 1099 Westwood Blvd., L.A.)	LAWRENCE PARKS 1791 N. Sycamore Hollywood
9 T 4729	1940 Cadillac 8, 4-door sedan	MARIE ST. MARX 601 North Foothill Road Beverly Hills
9 U 4448	1940 Chevrolet coupe	JOHN BURTON 9800 Wanda Park Drive Beverly Hills
9 U 6071	1930 Ford 4 sedan	HUGO D. BUTLER 709 Malcolm Street Los Angeles
9 U 4635	1933 Buick convertible coupe (Legal owner, Domestic Finance Co., 1522 N. La Brea Avenue, Hollywood)	V. T. TOLLESON 1412-3/4 N. Bayworth Los Angeles

1943 California license number	Description of car	Registered to
9 W 4167	1940 Buick convertible coupe	EDGAR Y. HARBURG 1?? W. Bentley West Los Angeles
9 U 3943	1940 Chrysler sedan	Mrs. ELLA DONAT 321 N. Arden Beverly Hills
17 V 786	1938 Buick convertible coupe	WILLIAM H. COURTNEY 208 Witmer, Los Angeles
5 W 6608	1941 Ford coupe	ARCH R. TUTHILL HELEN R. TUTHILL 124 Club Road Los Angeles
1 B 9143	1940 Plymouth station wagon (Legal owner, Bank of America, Brentwood Village, Los Angeles)	ALLEN RIVKIN 356 North Clifford Avenue West Los Angeles
22 B 139	1939 Cadillac sedan (Legal owner, Bronson Finance Co. Pasadena)	NATIONAL FI-PRO SALES ORGANIZATION 2?? N. Valley Blvd., Puente
9 C 5712	1941 Lincoln sedan	CAROLYN BUTLER 2200 Vista Del Mar Hollywood
10 H 184	1938 Hudson coupe	ROBERT BOSSO Route 3, Box 358-E Los Gatos, Calif.
05 L 602	1937 Ford Tudor Sedan	C. A. MINSHALL 3260 Wyman Street Oakland, Calif.
9 M 9627	1940 Buick sedan	GALE SONDERGAARD BIBERMAN 3259 Deronda Drive Hollywood
8 M 882	1941 Chrysler sedan	KATHERINE MORROS 916 N. Beverly Drive Beverly Hills

1943 California license number	Description of car	Registered to
82 N 273	1938 Plymouth sedan	HELEN CARTER BEATRICE MOLESS 3418 Tallman Street Los Angeles
35 P 138	1938 Buick coupe	ROSE SEGURE 5431 Russell Avenue Los Angeles
32 P 422	1936 Chevrolet sedan	A. C. LONG 507 San Gabriel
92 P 422	1940 Chevrolet convertible	LUCILLE MEREDITH 5833 Burchard Avenue Los Angeles
5 W 786	1930 Ford Tudor	LAWRENCE PALPA Box 3, Santa Ysabel, Cal.
7 X 8348	1941 Hudson sedan (Legal owner, C.I.T. Corporation, 9007 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills)	JAY GORNEY 506 North Altadena Drive Beverly Hills
6 X 9455	1941 Cadillac convertible coupe	FREDERICK STEPHANI 517 North Foothill Road Beverly Hills
37 X 471	1938 Buick sedan	MILTON MERLIN 3023 Haddington Drive Los Angeles
5 X 5656	1941 Chevrolet convertible	Mrs. J. L. HOBER 1455 Linda Crest Drive Beverly Hills

[redacted]

b7D

"DRAFT PROSPECTUS
EASTERN SEABOARD CONFERENCE
on the
PROBLEMS OF THE WAR AND THE NEGRO PEOPLE

"One of the decisions of the emergency session of the National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress which convened in New York City, Sunday, February 21, was to call a series of three regional victory conferences on the Problems of the War and the Negro People, to be held along the Eastern Seaboard, in the Middle West and on the Pacific Coast. These conferences are designed to bring together official representatives of organizations among the Negro people, as well as progressive white Americans, to consider and act upon the basic problems of the Negro as they relate to the war.

PROGRAM: It is felt that the Call and the program for the conferences should be based primarily upon three very vital issues before the Negro people:

"1. Manpower (FEPC, Negro women in industry, the organized labor movement).

"2. The Poll Tax (a united campaign to abolish the Poll Tax in the 78th session of the Congress).

"3. Democratization of the stage, screen and radio (a national campaign for an accurate interpretation of the life and culture of the Negro people).

"In addition to these questions, there are such matters as the armed forces, the fascist offensive on the home front and problems of strengthening civilian morale (rationing, price control, child care, high cost of living), which the Conference will consider.

THE SEABOARD CONFERENCE: The National Board voted to hold the Eastern Seaboard Conference on the Problems of the War and the Negro People in New York City, April 10-11, 1943. The area includes the Eastern Seaboard from the New England States down through Virginia. It is our hope that two hundred leading individuals and twenty-five organizations from along the Seaboard will join with us in issuing the Call for this important gathering. Moreover, we expect to have, in attendance, a minimum of three hundred official delegates.

FINANCE: A budget amounting to over a thousand dollars has been worked out as the amount needed to promote the Seaboard Conference. Each individual sponsor is being asked to contribute a minimum of two dollars, and each organizational sponsor a minimum of five dollars to help defray the conference costs.

"Funds are needed immediately to launch the preparations. Immediate contributions will be appreciated.

"BEGIN YOUR PREPARATION TODAY for the Eastern Seaboard Conference on the [illegible] of the War and the Negro People! Each organization is urged to set up [illegible] Seaboard Conference Committee! Each interested individual is urged to [illegible] call the National Negro Congress relative to how he may help in assuring the success of the Conference.

Issued by the National Negro Congress
307 Lenox Avenue, Room 204
New York, New York

TELEPHONE: MOnument 2-4570"

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

"February 24, 1943 67D

Dear Friend,

Seventy-five members and visitors attending the emergency National Executive Board meeting of the National Negro Congress, held in New York City on last Sunday, voted unanimously to authorize the holding of a series of three Regional Victory Conferences on the Problems of the War and the Negro People. The first in this series will be the Eastern Seaboard Conference on the Problems of the War and the Negro People, scheduled to convene in New York City, April 10-11, 1943.

It is our hope that the Eastern Seaboard Conference will bring together three hundred official delegates from the New England States down to and including Virginia and representing the leading organizations concerned with the problems of the Negro people. We believe that such a conference coming at this time will be able to help in the mobilization of thousands of Negro as well as progressive white Americans in the fight for full citizenship status of the Negro people as an indispensable part of our country's war effort.

We are writing at this time to ask that you join with us as an individual Sponsor in issuing the Call for the Seaboard Conference. Two hundred prominent men and women in all walks of life are being asked to serve in this capacity, and we know that you will want to be associated with them in this important venture. As the budget for the Conference will require the raising of approximately one thousand dollars ($1,000.00), it is our hope that each individual sponsor will contribute a minimum of two dollars ($2.00) towards this sum.

May we hear from you at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Max Yergan

MAX YERGAN
President"

60 (2-7-79)

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The "People's World", West Coast Communist newspaper, of Mar[illegible] 1943, on its front page shows a picture of MAX YERGAN and PAUL ROBESON [illegible] with PHILIP CONNELLY, State President, CIO, and HOWARD LAMBERT, Director, [illegible] American and Allied War Relief Committee, when YERGAN and ROBESON visited [illegible] CIO building in Los Angeles. [redacted]

b7C

Agent's notes regarding the above interview are being retained in instant file.

ENCLOSURES FOR THE BUREAU:

Draft Prospectus, Eastern Seaboard Conference on the Problems of the War and the Negro People.

[redacted]

b7D

Letter from National Negro Congress, February 24, 1943.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

50 (2-7-79)

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

11424

100-3633
MET:DW

March 24, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 65K/RH
ON 4/27/79

Director, FBI

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

b7D

There are being transmitted herewith the original and one copy of the report of [redacted] dated March 12, 1943, relative to JOHN P. DAVIS, who was formerly the National Executive Secretary for the National Negro Congress.

[redacted] reported that JOHN P. DAVIS resigned his job with the National Negro Congress to take up law practice. [redacted]

b7D

One copy of [redacted] report is being designated for the Washington Field Division for their information.

Two copies of the [redacted] report are being retained in the New York file on this case.

b7D

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DATE 4/27/79 BY SP-1 65K/RH

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enclosures (2)
CC: Washington Field
NY file 65-10519

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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12 MAR 26 1943

National Voter Conference

I have worked with [illegible]
from its very inception. [illegible]
the National Voter Conference [illegible]
delegation recently.

[redacted]

National Conference to Abolish the Poll Tax

Davis attended two sessions of the Conference to Abolish [illegible]
Poll Tax held in Washington, D.C. on March 9th and 10th [illegible]
occasion while lobbying I visited the offices Congressman [illegible]
Marcantonio. There I found his working as Marcantonio's [illegible]

[redacted]

Davis is a Washingtonian. He worked from the National [illegible]
Congress offices which were in Washington, D.C.

[redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at RICHMOND, VIRGINIA — File No. 100-619

Report Made at:	Date Made:	Period:	Report Made By:
Richmond, Virginia	3-26-43	3/3,6,11/43	[redacted] JEL:[redacted]

Title:	Character of Case:
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Synopsis of Facts:

[redacted] 67D

[redacted] MRS. ROBBIE LEE RIDDICK, Chief Steward of Local #20, UCAPAWA CIO was unanimously elected to represent the Tidewater CIO Industrial Union Council at the Emergency National Executive Board meeting. [redacted] 67C

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- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 2-27-43 at Richmond, Virginia. 67C

Approved & Forwarded: W. D. Bellinger 61-727

Special Agent in Charge

cc DR

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MAR 23 1943

30 APR 12 1943

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100-619

DETAILS: AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

INVITATION TO EASTERN SEABOARD CONFERENCE

[redacted] supplied this office with a letter dated [redacted] 1943 on the stationery of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, 307 Lennox Avenue, Room 204, New York City. The officers are listed as follows:-

MAX YERGAN, President
EDWARD E. STRONG, Secretary
FERDINAND SMITH, Treasurer
THELMA A. DALE, Administrative Secretary

[redacted]

50 (2-7-79)

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[redacted]

[redacted] stated that Mrs. ROBBIE MAE RIDDICK, Chief Steward of Local 26, UCAPAWA CIO, was unanimously elected to represent the Tidewater CIO Industrial Union Council at the Emergency National Executive Board meeting of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS in New York City on February 21, 1943. b7D

This information is also contained in the UCAPAWA NEWS of March 1, 1943 under the by-name of HARRY WOGER, International Representative of UCAPAWA, who has recently been elected President of the Tidewater CIO Industrial Union Council.

[redacted] b7C b7D

- PENDING -

100-619

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE RICHMOND OFFICE

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA:

* Will conduct investigation in order to determine the background and political affiliations [redacted]

AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

b7c

Will follow and report the activities of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS in this area.

- PENDING -

50 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Originated at NEW YORK CITY — SA File 100-220

Made at	Date	Period	Made by
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	3/29/43	2/17-25/43; 3/3-10/43	[redacted] b7c

Title	Character
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS: Meetings of subject organization held at San Antonio 2/16/43 and 3/9/43. G. J. SUTTON, San Antonio, president and leader of local organization. [redacted] reports subject interested at present time in race discrimination against negroes, particularly in United States Armed Forces, also in local discrimination with regard to Red Cross service and air raid protection facilities. No evidence of open Communist activities. Names of present officers of subject organization obtained. b7D

- P -

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 3/13/43 at San Antonio, Texas. b7c
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 2/1/43 at San Antonio, Texas.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 1/8/43 at San Antonio, Texas.

DETAILS: AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS:

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

Approved & Forwarded: R. C. Suran S.C

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3-San Antonio

25 APR

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100-220

[redacted] 67D

[redacted] stated that the National Negro Congress meets regularly at the Colored Y.M.C.A. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and that G. J. SUTTON was responsible for efforts to revive the activity of the organization at the present time.

[redacted] stated that during the latter part of 1942 there were no meetings of subject organization that had come to [redacted] knowledge. [redacted] a meeting of the subject organization was held [redacted] at the Colored Y.M.C.A., Pine and Crockett Streets, and that the following persons were in attendance:

[redacted] 67D

All of the above named individuals reside in Sanford.

Discussion at this meeting centered around various instances of racial discrimination.

G. J. SUTTON called to the attention of the meeting the case of a prominent negro newspaper in North Carolina that had recently been suppressed by the Government for publishing information concerning discrimination against negroes in the United States Army. This newspaper had pointed out repeatedly the fact that negroes were not permitted to enter combat service and were denied opportunities to improve their rank. Various suggestions were made from the floor

regarding steps that could be taken on behalf of the newspaper. It was noted that the National Negro Association for the Advancement of Colored People is going to send a representative to Washington to look into the general problem of discrimination against negroes in the Armed Forces. [redacted] was unable to furnish the name of the newspaper in question. b7D

[redacted] stated that it was pointed out at the meeting that the City of San Antonio had failed to provide air raid shelters in the negro sections of the city and that this appeared to be a deliberate case of discrimination. It was suggested that city officials be contacted to determine the reasons for the absence of these facilities. It was also noted at the meeting that the local Red Cross organization made no effort to place negroes in various types of Red Cross work although negroes were willingly given instruction by the Red Cross. This was advanced as a deliberate case of discrimination. b7D

[redacted] stated that there was no evidence whatsoever at this meeting of any open sympathy with the Communist Party, but rather that the opposite was the case. [redacted] was of the opinion that negroes residing in the San Antonio area have a distinct fear of being connected with anything Communistic, particularly during the present war. The next meeting of the National Negro Congress will be held March 23, 1943.

[redacted] letterhead being currently used by subject organization, a copy of which letterhead follows: b7D

"San Antonio Council of National Negro Congress
430 North Cherry Street
San Antonio, Texas

Officers
G. J. SUTTON, President
Rev. NELSON DIXON, 1st Vice President
J. H. BROWN, 2nd Vice President
O. E. FITZGERALD, 3rd Vice President
VOLA MAE TURNER, Secretary
CHANEY SMITH, Asst. Secretary
J. C. GLOSSON, Treasurer "

100-203

[redacted] received this letter about [redacted] b7C
He knew of no Communist affiliations of any of the [redacted] listed b7D
except [redacted] and possibly [redacted]

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] advised that the National Negro Congress in San Antonio was active up until the entry of the United States into the present war, but that in his opinion it had ceased to be active since that time. [redacted] felt that any activity of subject organization at the present time would prove to be short lived. He stated that as a general observation negro participation in Communist affairs in the San Antonio area had become practically non-existent in recent months due to the fear which negroes have for being connected with anything Communistic. b7D

[redacted] was unable to furnish any [redacted] information concerning subject organization except to advise that JOHN INMAN, of San Antonio, had recently made the statement to several unknown individuals that the National Negro Congress was becoming active again and that he was taking little part in its affairs. [redacted] b7D b7C

Current issues of the San Antonio Registor, negro newspaper, were reviewed for information pertaining to subject organization with negative results.

P E N D I N G

100-220

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION

At SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, will maintain contact with [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining additional information regarding members and activities of subject organization. b7D

Will maintain contact with [redacted] for further information pertaining to subject. b7D

Will interview [redacted] for any information he may have pertaining to past or present activities of subject organization in San Antonio.

50 (2-7-79)

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al Bureau of Investigati

United States Department of Justice

MET:JLW
100-3633

New York, N. Y.
April 3, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, F.B.I.

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/LH
ON 4/27/79

Dear Sir:-

There are being transmitted herewith two pamphlets advertising the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, to be held at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th Street, New York City, on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11, 1943.

The program for this conference is reflected in this pamphlet and a partial listing of the individual and organizational sponsors are set out in the pamphlet, on the back page.

One copy of this pamphlet is being placed in the New York file of this case.

[redacted] b7D

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FILE ADVISING SLIP DECLASS DATE 6-08-79

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY,
S.A.C.

Enclosures - 2 ENCLO. 23

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/27/79 BY SP-1 GSK/LH

RECORDED

57 APR 14 1943

COPIES DESTROYED
R 16 - APR 20 1961

Announcing the

Eastern Seaboard Conference

on the Problems of the War and the Negro People

Saturday and Sunday, April 10th and 11th, 1943

Abyssinian Baptist Church

132 West 138th Street - - - - New York City

ENCLOS

LONDON — STALINGRAD — TUNISIA — GUADALCANAL — over three-fourths of the globe hangs the smoke of battlefields. From all over the world arises the cry of men and women who are fighting to be free from fascist tyranny.

Here in America, as in the world abroad, there are only two paths before us. One the United Nations have chosen—the way that strives to secure for mankind the four freedoms that characterize a democratic government—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear. For 15,000,000 American Negroes this spells freedom from oppression.

The other is the way of the fascist aggressor which tramples underfoot captive nations, which drowns in bloodshed the lives, dignity and culture of minority peoples, and ruthlessly stamps out the right of oppressed people to full liberation.

There is no middle road today either in international relations or in domestic politics. Those who jimcrow and discriminate against the Negro at the expense of greater national unity; those who shut Negro men and women out of jobs at the expense of increased war production; those who disqualify Negroes for service in branches of the armed forces at the expense of our nation's fighting efficiency; those who cry "black domination" to prevent the passage of anti-poll tax and anti-lynching laws—all are closely following in the foot-steps of our fascist enemies.

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2. To organize support among all groups for the passage of an anti-poll tax bill and an anti-lynching bill in this session of Congress. To conduct a campaign to replace characterizations ridiculing the Negro in the press, on the stage, screen, and radio with faithful interpretations of Negro life. To defeat anti-labor and other pro-fascist bills now being introduced into Congress.

WAR TIME LIVING STANDARDS

3. To support Administration proposals for price and rent control, urging the wide extension of these controls, and the extension of the rationing system to all consumer goods. To support an equitable system of taxation which will reduce war profiteering to a minimum. To work for child care centers for working mothers in their communities; adequate housing facilities for war workers; social legislation to protect young workers and women workers in war industries.

A PEOPLE'S VICTORY . . A PEOPLE'S PEACE

4. To work to obtain the extension of the four freedoms and the principles of the Atlantic Charter, including full democratic and political rights to the African, Indian, Chinese, Puerto Rican and colonial peoples of the world. To urge the arming of the African peoples so that their troops may hasten the United Nations victory in Africa. To work in all ways possible to strengthen the fighting alliance of the United Nations, and for the continuance of this alliance in the establishment of a durable peace.

National Negro Congress

SPONSORS
(Partial Listing)

Connecticut

Ruth L. Banks
Atty. Samuel Gruber
Bertram Harris
John Holton
Daniel Howard
Rev. Robert A. Moody
Harold R. Peters
Marguerite T. Scott
Leo C. Smith
Rev. W. T. Teague
William S. Zeman

District of Columbia

Murray B. Allen
William J. Arnold
Bertha Blair
Dr. Sara W. Brown
Prof. Sterling A. Brown
Dr. Henry A. Callis
Mrs. Myra C. Callis
Mrs. Sally H. Clark
Calvin Cousins
Mrs. Eleanor Fowler
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Dr. Eugene C. Holmes
Dr. W. A. Hunton
Cecelia Jefferson
Rev. W. H. Jernagin
Harry S. McAlpin
J. M. McConnell
Ruth McKenney
Bishop W. W. Matthews
Rev. H. T. Medford
Jack Mink
Rev. C. T. Murray
Larence Owens
Oliver T. Palmer
Joseph Phillips
Ben Riskin
Mrs. Theresa Lee Robinson
Mrs. Lillian Secundy
U. S. Tate
Mrs. Mary Church Terrell
William Van Hook
Dr. A. C. Webb
Rev. Joseph D. White
Rev. Levi C. Whiting
Prof. Doxey A. Wilkerson
Mrs. Vivian Wilkerson
Dr. Thomas A. Williston

Maryland

John Lester Hayes
Alfred McPherson
Dr. Lucy E. Mason
William C. Taylor

Massachusetts

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W. F. Garnes
William Harrison
Dr. William A. Hinton
Rev. Kenneth Hughes
Clinton F. Oliver
Joseph Salerno
Dr. R. A. Simmons
Julian D. Steele

New Jersey

James McLeish
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Mr. Henry K. Craft
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Lyndon Henry
Mrs. Hester Huntington
Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack
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Atty. Clarence N. Johnson
Odell C. Jordan
Carol King
Naomi Kornacker
Christian J. Lewis
Douglas L. MacMahon
Clifford T. McAvoy
George Marshall
Malcolm G. Martin
George D. Maynard
Shirley Moore
Mrs. Halois Moorhead
Frieda Neugebauer
Billye Oliver
Sy Oliver
Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Jr.
Rev. James H. Robinson
John A. Sampson
Albert E. Smith
Benjamin F. Smith
Ferdinand C. Smith
Atty. Cuthbert Spencer
Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers
John Steuben
Atty. Hope R. Stevens
Philippa F. Stowe
Edward E. Strong
Everett Thomas
J. A. Thompson
Rev. O. S. P. Thompson
Judge Charles E. [illegible]
Rev. Charles Y. [illegible]
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Turner
Mrs. Alice Holdship Ware
Mrs. Marian S. Williams
Nathan Witt
Bernice Wright
Dr. Max Yergan

Pennsylvania

Mr. Clarence Clory
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Fred Guilford
Mrs. Olivia Henry
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Mr. William Jason
John Lymas
Louis Marquet
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Rev. I. N. Patterson
Atty. Hobson R. Reynolds
E. Washington Rhodes
Sol Rottenberg
Mr. Philip Vengelder
Sarah T. Walsh
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President J. M. Ellison
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United Federal Workers of America, CIO—New York Regional Council
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National Negro Congress

307 Lenox Avenue, New York City

MOnument 2-4570

440

EHW:AKR

April 6, 1943

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

There are being furnished herewith photostatic copies of an announcement of the Eastern Seaboard Conference sponsored by the captioned organization and scheduled to be held April 10 and 11, 1943, at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th Street, New York City.

It is the Bureau's desire that you make the necessary arrangements for an appropriate coverage of this Conference and submit an investigative report containing the results thereof.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/79 BY SP-1 GSK/RH

RECORDED

61-6728

Tamm

DAR

Announcing the

Eastern Seaboard Conference

on the Problems of the War and the Negro People

Saturday and Sunday, April 10th and 11th, 1943

Abyssinian Baptist Church

132 West 138th Street - - - - New York City

4/6/43

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National Negro Congress

307 Lenox Avenue, New York City

MOnument 2-4570

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

MET:MVW
100-3633

April 15, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

declassified by SP-1 ESRK 6/13/79

Director, FBI

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

There are being transmitted herewith the original and one copy of two reports of [redacted] on the Eastern Seaboard Conference held by the National Negro Congress in New York City on April 10th and 11th, 1943. b7D

[redacted] are concerning the reports of conference committees and the victory mass meeting which was held subsequent to the reports by the committees. b7D

[redacted] b7D

Two copies of the [redacted] reports are being retained in the appropriate files in the New York Office.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Declass
DATE 6-28-79-AH

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY,
SAC

ENC. - 2
cc: NY file 65-10519

RECORDED & INDEXED

14 2 21
F B I
APR 17 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

COPIES DESTROYED
R 16 4 APR 21 1961

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

8 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
61-6728-295 ep 1-8

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
DELETED PAGE(S)
NO DUPLICATION FEE
FOR THIS PAGE
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

REL:SL
100-349

Atlanta, Georgia
April 16, 1943

43904

Director, FBI

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Dear Sir:

During the investigation of the above entitled case, certain bulky exhibits were obtained and are being held in the files of this office. These exhibits were explained to the Bureau by letter, dated April 22, 1941 and also set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, dated April 21, 1941. b7C

Inasmuch as this case is presently in a closed status, permission is requested to dispose of the bulky exhibits in this office, inasmuch as the full and complete information is known to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

F. B. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

342

RECORDED 61-1[illegible] 8-29[illegible]

24 APR 19 1943

C.I.F.

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R 16 4 APR 21 1961

EXAMINED
61-6728-296

May 5, 1943

43903

SAC, Atlanta

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April 16, 1943, in the captioned matter. You are advised that permission is hereby granted to destroy the exhibits mentioned in your reference letter except those which pertain to the Third National Negro Congress' report to delegates containing the resolutions adopted at this Congress. This was referred to in a letter from your Field Division in this matter dated April 22, 1941. If this is available it should be forwarded to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
McGuire
Mumford
Piper
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

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DATE 4/27/79 BY SP-1 65K1Kd

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 1
MAY -6 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

3A8

FD-72

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-213

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	4-15-43	2-8,11,20,26/3-6-,31-43	[redacted] SPPHS b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] b7E

CHOCKER to attend meeting of Negro Youth Congress at New York City April 11, 12, 1943. ROBBIE MAE MIDDICK of Local 26, UCAPWA elected to represent Tidewater CIO Industrial Union Council at the emergency National Executive Board meeting of National Negro Congress in New York City on February 21, 1943. [redacted] b7C JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary, National Negro Congress appeared in Suffolk, Virginia in October, 1942 and presented a brief to War Production Board in support of an increase in salary for negroes employed in the world's largest peanut market at Suffolk, Va. [redacted] b7E

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] b7C,D

DETAILS: AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

The following information was received from a [redacted] b7C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: John B. Lee, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

100-213-21	INDEXED
(Secret)	
(Secret)	

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2 Boston
Atlanta
1. MID, Norfolk
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MAY 7 1943

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100-213

[redacted]

b7c

[redacted] a portion of a document bearing Release No. 99, dated February 5, 1943 and bearing the return address of 307 Lennox Avenue, Room 204, New York City. It is noted that evidently both Rooms 204 and 205 at 307 Lennox Avenue, New York City are the headquarters of this organization. Both of these portions of documents appear to be negro propaganda.

[redacted] b7c

a portion of a document which is apparently from the headquarters of the National Negro Congress and which is set out below.

MGM FAILS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC TAKE "TENNESSEE JOHNSON"

"New York - The National Negro Congress ascertained here this week that the film "Tennessee Johnson" is scheduled to close within another week, culminating one of the most unsuccessful picture runs the Astor Theatre has witnessed in recent years.

"Tennessee Johnson" which MGM attempted to force upon the American public by means of glowing advertisements and reviews has maintained the lowest box office average in the history of the Astor Theatre. Most pictures at this Theatre run for many weeks and bring in an average of $25,000 per week ("Pride of the Yankees" netted an average of $32,000 per week). FOR THE PAST FIVE WEEKS "TENNESSEE JOHNSON" HAS BROUGHT IN A MERE $9,000 PER WEEK.

"This comes as welcome news to the Congress and other groups who fought to have this picture banned on the basis that "its release would create widespread disunity and confusion."

"Two months ago representatives of thirteen Negro and white organizations and newspapers, after witnessing a special preview of "Tennessee Johnson", issued a statement attacking the film as "one of the most dangerous films in the history of the motion picture industry," and started a campaign to have the film banned. The statement which was signed by Dr. LAWRENCE B. DEDDICK, Curator of the Schomburg Library, and GEORGE B. MURPHY, Jr., then Administrative Secretary of the National Negro Congress, on behalf of the group, was sent to HOWARD DIETZ, Publicity Director of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

A copy of the letter was also sent to ELMER DAVIS, Director of the Office of War Information, together with a request that the OWI stop the film and investigate the source of its production.

"Both MGM and OWI flatly refused to take any action to ban the picture, but once again the American public has voiced its protest against the "poetic license" of Hollywood to distort American history by boycotting "Tennessee Johnson."

[redacted] b7c

A clipping from the "Suffolk News Herald" dated April 1, 1943 and written by GRADY L. BACKUS reflects that W. H. CROCKER was elected as a delegate to represent the Civic League of Suffolk, Virginia at the annual meeting of the Negro Youth Congress to be held in New York City April 11, 12, 1943. It is noted that the Civic League is the Suffolk and Nansemond Civic League. A case is presently pending in this office which indicates that this league is possibly a revival of the Communist inspired Suffolk Citizens Committee.

[redacted] was the source of the following information: b7D

Seventy five members and visitors attending the meeting of the emergency National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress held in New York City on last Sunday (February 21, 1943) voted unanimously to authorize the holding of a series of three regional conferences on the problems of the War and the Negro People. The first in this series will be the Eastern Seaboard conference on the problems of the war and the Negro people scheduled to convene in New York City April 10, 11, 1943. It is noted that due to the fact that the Negro Youth Congress is being held on April 11, 12, 1943 and the Eastern Seaboard Conference on the War and the Negro People is being held on April 10, 11, that there is a strong possibility that W. H. CROCKER will attend the latter meeting.

[redacted] that ROBBIE MAE RIDDICK, b7D Chief Steward of Local 26, UCAPAWA, CIO was unanimously elected to represent the Tidewater CIO Industrial Union Council at the emergency National Executive Board meeting of the National Negro Congress in New York City on February 21,

100-2[redacted]3

1943. [redacted]

[redacted] advised that JOHN P. DAVIS, President of the National Negro Congress, appeared at Suffolk, Virginia in October, 1942 and presented a well prepared brief to the War Production Board in interest of an increase in salary for negroes employed in peanut factories at the world's largest peanut market in Suffolk, Virginia. It is noted that according to [redacted] JOHN P. DAVIS is the President of the National Negro Congress, however, the files of this office reflect that he is the National Secretary of that organization. b7D

[redacted]

b7C,D

[redacted] advised that he had heard of the National Negro Congress, but that if it had one member in Suffolk, Virginia that he did not know him. [redacted] was definitely of the opinion that [redacted] is not a member of the National Negro Congress, but he stated that, of course, he could be wrong in this matter. b7D

[redacted] b7E

[redacted]

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will ascertain from the street index the name of the individuals residing at 101 S. Street, N. W. and 3303 Woodle Road, N. W., and check the names of these individuals against the indices of that office noting any connection with instant organization or any Communist tendencies or their part.

THE RICHMOND FIELD DIVISION

AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Will check the indices of that office against the names of [redacted] Winchester, Virginia and [redacted] Charlottesville, Virginia, noting any connection with instant organization or any Communistic tendencies expressed or exhibited on their part. b7c

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

b7c

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will check the name of [redacted] against the indices of that office noting any connection with instant organization or any Communist tendencies or connections.

Will ascertain from the street address the names of the individuals residing at 214 W. 139th Street, New York City and 385 Macon Street, Brooklyn, and check the names of these individuals against the indices of that office noting any connection with instant organization or any Communist tendencies or connections.

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

AT ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Will ascertain the identity of the individual residing at 3 Ottawa Street, noting any connection with instant organization or any Communist tendencies or connections.

100-213

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will furnish this office with pertinent information in the office files regarding the activities of the individual or individuals located at 710 Standard Building in regard to the connection of such individuals with instant organization and Communist activities. It is noted that the only address in the files in this office is 710 Standard, and there is a possibility that this may not be the entire address.

THE NORFOLK FIELD DIVISION

AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

Will through [redacted] continue to investigate the activities of [redacted] and also ascertain if instant organization is active in Suffolk, Virginia.

b7C,D

Will interview [redacted] relative to further information concerning instant organization.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

MET: NCB
100-3633

CONFIDENTIAL
April 21, 1943

Director, F.B.I.

RE: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RH
ON 4/27/79

Dear Sir:

There are being transmitted herewith two copies of the report of [redacted] dated April 16, 1943. This report is the supplementary report to one previously furnished by the [redacted] concerning the Eastern Seaboard Conference held under the auspices of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11, 1943.

b7D

Two copies of [redacted] report are being retained in appropriate files in the New York Office.

b7D

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY
SAC

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) ON DATE 6-28-79

Enclosures
cc: NY File [redacted]

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DATE 4/27/79 BY SP-1 GSK/RH

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61-6722

5 APR 21 1943

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

C.I.F.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 100-294 [redacted]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
BOSTON, MASS.	4/23/43	4/20/43	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities holds meetings at 558 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. List of delegates to the National Conference of Colored Youth, held in November, 1941, at Washington, D. C., is set out herein.

- P -

b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] September 13, 1941.

DETAILS: Instant report constitutes an incorporation of various material in the files of instant case.

According to the BOSTON CHRONICLE, the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities, together with the Citizens Committee, sponsored a mass resolution at Boston, protesting the assault in the South of the well-known Negro singer, ROLAND HAYES, and resolutions protesting this assault were sent to the Attorney General of the United States.

The BOSTON CHRONICLE reported the following speakers: Attorney JOHN S. R. BOURNE, Boston Negro Congress, chairman; Mrs. M. C. SIMPSON of the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; MARTIN D. RICHARDSON, WPA Historical Records Survey Supervisor; J. CASWELL SMITH, Executive Secretary of Boston Urban League; WILLIAM HARRISON, Associate Editor of the BOSTON CHRONICLE and Executive Secretary of the Boston Negro Congress; Dr. R. A. SIMMONS, DAVID D. KENNEY, and the Reverend M. J. MINOR, pastor of the Metropolitan Church.

The BOSTON CHRONICLE also reports the organization of a factory council in the South End district of Boston, organized by

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
C. E. Hennrich		61-1128-301

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6 APR 28 1943

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60 MAY 6

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8-18-4 APR 21 1961

WILLIAM HARRISON, Associate Editor of the BOSTON CHRONICLE.

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of April 18, 1942, reported a mass meeting held under the auspices of the National Negro Congress in the Columbus Avenue, A.M.E. Zion on April 17, 1942. The principal speaker was the national secretary of the National Negro Congress, GEORGE B. MURPHY, whose subject was devoted to an attack against the discrimination of the Negroes. The GUARDIAN reported that GEORGE MURPHY spoke on how the British Empire was being spurned by millions of India's castes and groups, the sell-out to Japan by the Burmese natives, the possibility that Russia's counterattack would blaze the trail of Axis weakness, and pointed out that Japan might create a world rising tide of color in combating the United Nations.

The presiding officer was Attorney J. S. R. BOURNE, and WILLIAM HARRISON referred to previously herein is reported as introducing three resolutions which were passed unanimously. Dr. M. C. SIMPSON also spoke.

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of January 10, 1942 reported that a testimonial was being given to Attorney JOHN S. R. BOURNE on January 19, 1942. The following committee members and program were set out:

"Honorary chairman of the committee is Attorney JOHN W. SCHEUCK; Dr. ROBERT A. SIMMONS is chairman, WILLIAM HARRISON, secretary; Attorney LAURENCE BANKS, treasurer, and Mrs. MAUDE TROTTER- STEWARD, director of publicity. Active committee members include Mesdames MINNIE F. GARNES, NANCY MORGAN, AGNES B. SIMMONS, MABELLE SCOTT and LILLIAN H. WILLIAMS; MARK ALPER, DAVID D. KENNEY, GEORGE W. WILLIAMS, and Mr. and Mrs. JAMES STANSIL.

His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth, Hon. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, and His Honor the Mayor of Boston, Hon. MAURICE J. TOBIN, have been invited to attend. Among sponsors are MATTHEW W. BULLOCK, assistant commissioner of correction; JULIAN D. STEELE, executive director of the Armstrong-Hemenway Foundation; SEATON W. MANNING, industrial secretary of the Boston Urban League; MORRIS R. TAYLOR, director of the Robert Gould Shaw House; CLIVE KNOWLES of Labor's Non-Partisan League; Professor FRANCIS O. MATTHIESSEN of Harvard University; LOUIS E. PASCO, secretary of the Boston branch of the NAACP, and president of Boston Branch, Equal Rights League."

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of November 22, 1941, reflects that Dr. R. A. SIMMONS and WILLIAM HARRISON, vice president and secretary, respectively, of the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities, attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the National Negro Congress held in Washington, D. C., November 17, 1941. The GUARDIAN also reports that the president of the above organization locally was Attorney JOHN S. R. BOURNE, and it appears that the executive committee of this organization meets at times at the home of Dr. R. A. SIMMONS, 222 Northampton Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Attorney BOURNE, Dr. SIMMONS and HARRISON, according to the BOSTON GUARDIAN, February 17, 1943, were delegates from the local organization to the Executive Committee session of the National Congress for Equal Opportunities which was held in New York City on February 21, 1943.

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of March 27, 1943, reports that on March 18, 1943, there was a meeting at 222 Northampton Street, the home of Dr. R. A. SIMMONS for the purpose of organizing the Junior Congress for Equal Opportunities. A later meeting was held on March 23, 1943, at the home of Miss MARION JOHNSON at 105 Warwick Street, Roxbury, and officers were elected as follows:

"MARY STANSIL, president; RUSSEL OWENS, vice president; ALICE TAYLOR, recording secretary; ROBERT LAMBERT, financial secretary; FRANCIS HARGRETT, treasurer; HUBERT LOMAX, chaplain. Members of the entertainment committee: FRANSARAH STEPHENS, SARAH STANSIL, LOUISE HARTFIELD, GRACE HARTFIELD, ERNA ADAMSON. The Junior Congress will meet next on April 1 at 222 Northampton St., home of Dr. and Mrs. R. A. SIMMONS."

AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of April 18, 1942, reflects that on April 14, 1942, there was held a meeting at the Peoples' Baptist Church, Boston, to celebrate the Seventieth Anniversary of the late WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER, the founder of the BOSTON GUARDIAN and referred to as the Champion of the Race. Among the speakers at this celebration were WILLIAM HARRISON and Attorney JOHN S. R. BOURNE. Another speaker was OTIS HOOD, who is the chairman of the Communist Party of Massachusetts.

Attorney JOHN S. R. BOURNE also was a speaker at anniversary exercises held under the auspices of the National Negro Rights League, Boston branch, on March 5, 1942.

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of February 28, 1942, reflects that there was formed a new organization entitled, "Citizens' Defense Jobs Committee," which was organized at a meeting held at 558 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, the previous week. The organization was stated to have been organized for the purpose of combating discrimination and securing jobs in defense industries. Officers of the committee are as follows:

"BERNARD LEWIS, chairman; COTABELLE SMITH, vice chairman; WILLIAM HARRISON, recording; LEON BAILEY, corresponding secretary; LEON G. LOMAX, treasurer; EDNA L. HARRISON, publicity; MATTIE STANSIL, LILLIAN H. WILLIAMS, Revs. J. E. JELTZ, W. S. RAVENELL, and A. J. SPRATLEY;

Dr. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Atty. LAURENCE H. BANKS, Atty. JOHN S. R. BOURNE, MORRIS R. TAYLOR, and GEORGE W. WILLIAMS, members of executive board.

The meeting was called by Atty. JOHN R. BOURNE, who presided. SEATON MANNING of the Urban League pointed out that not enough young people are taking advantage of the training courses given free by the WPA, NYA and other agencies; and that there are existing job opportunities in defense industries for qualified workers. Clergymen present pledged supportof the committee."

The BOSTON CHRONICLE of April 19, 1941, carried this further story on the above organization:

"The citizens committee, headed by MADELINE DUGGER met at 522 Columbus Avenue on Monday, April 7 to form a permanent organization.

The organization will concern itself with coordinating the work of individual organizations, rather than with forming a new body. In this way it was felt that greater efficiency could be achieved. It further seemed the logical way of entering into the program that is going on on a city-wide bases.

The name for the new group was decided upon as "Coordinating Council of Colored Organizations for National Defense." Officers elected were: JOHN CASWELL SMITH, Jr., President; MADELINE DUGGER, Vice President; LILLIAN GIDEON, Secretary; Josephine WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary; Capt. WILLIAM E. SIMMONS, Treasurer; ESTELLA L. CROSBY and ALVIRA HAZZARD, Journalist.

It will be the function of this committee on Recreation to receive information from the various organizations in the city of Boston and environs concerning the programs they are planning for men on leave, and to redistribute this information both to the organizations involved and also to Fort Devens. In the event that it is foreseen that there will be little or no activity on the parts of individual groups for a given week-end, The Recreation Committee may possibly sponsor entertainment itself.

Another function that was definitely set up was that of securing lodging facilities for those men who may desire to stay in the city overnight while on leave from the camp. Mrs. THOMASINA JOHNSON is at present heading up this function and sending information of this sort to Fort Devens where it can be made available."

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of February 21, 1942, carried the following article:

"HUB CITIZENS URGE BROWDER'S RELEASE

Representative colored citizens of Boston on Lincoln's Birthday addressed an appeal to President Roosevelt to extend executive clemency to EARL BROWDER, general secretary of the Communist Party, now serving sentence in Atlanta Penitentiary for a passport violation. With Mrs. MAUDE TROTTER STEWARD, editor of the GUARDIAN, Mrs. AGNES SIMMONS, wife of a prominent civic leader and WILLIAM HARRISON, associate editor of the CHRONICLE (initiators) the signers included Atty. JOHN S. R. BOURNE, chairman of the New England Congress for Equal Opportunities; EDWARD JACKSON of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers CIO; Dr. M. CRAVATH SIMPSON, chairman of the Suppression of Lynching Department of the Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs; Rev. Dr. JOHNSON W. HILL, corresponding secretary of the United Baptist Convention of Mass. and R. I.; JULIAN D. STEELE, director Armstrong-Hemenway Foundation; ERIC L. JACKSON, secretary of the Jamaician Associates; Rev. JAMES HOUGE, assistant minister of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; LOUIS E. PASCO, secretary Boston branch, NAACP; Atty. EDGAR P. BENJAMIN; GEORGE W. WILLIAMS, Grand Chancellor K of P; Atty. WALTER FOSTER, former assistant corporation counsel of Boston; Atty. LAWRENCE BANKS, Republican leader; JAMES BYARS of the Byars-Harris Operatic Group."

The DAILY WORKER of December 3, 1941, carried a story on the National Conference of Negro Youth which was held November 14, through November 16, 1941, at Washington, D. C. This conference was initiated "by the National Initiating Committee, National Conference of Negro Youth, 2374 Seventh Avenue, New York City."

The BOSTON GUARDIAN of November 29, 1941, carried the following article on this conference listing the Massachusetts delegates:

"YOUTH RALLY TO DEFEND NATION

The national conference of colored youth drew more than 900 delegates from nearly a score of states and the District of Columbia to the Nation's capital to discuss unity of action in the national crisis.

Rev. A. CLAYTON POWELL, JR., pastor of Abyssianian Baptist Church, N. Y., and Atty. EARL DICKERSON, Chicago Alderman were guest speakers. Other guest speakers were Dr. C. HERBERT MARSHALL, Rev. E. C. SMITH, Miss DOROTHY HEIGHT, of Phyllis Wheatley branch of Y. W. C. A.; LESTER GRANGER of the National Urban League, EDWARD BURNS and others. Music was provided by the 50-voice A-Capella choir of students led by Prof. J. HAROLD MONTAGUE of Virginia State College.

Massachusetts delegates were Misses COTABELLE SMITH, sponsor, and vice-chairman of the local initiating committee; PRISCILLA BUTCHER, VICKY BEST, ANNIE-LOUISE THOMPSON, JOAN BREEN, JOY CLARKE INCE, MARJORIE

THOMPSON, BEERLY CARRINGTON, WILLIE MAE ROBERTS, DORIS CALLENDER, ELLEN WILLIAMS, DOROTHY CALLENDER, MRS. SELINA GRIFFITH, MRS. ALMA COOTSON; HERBERT REED, Co-Chairman of the Conference and LEON E. BAILEY, sponsor and Chairman of the local initiating committee, MARCUS JAMES, FRED JOHNSON, Jr., EARL SULLIVAN, (HOPETON) JOHNSON, MATTHEW BULLOCK, SAM STUART, DAVID BENNETT, STANLEY GILLER, WILLIAM HARRISON, sponsor, SAM RIDLEY, LESLIE JACKSON and others.

Fully 2000 people crowded Metropolitan Baptist Church at the opening rally. All sessions were largely attended."

-PENDING-

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*Will interview [redacted] National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and who, according to [redacted] of this office, resigned from the [redacted] NAACP because of alleged Communist infiltration. b7C,D

Will keep in touch with the activities of the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

PHILA FILE NO. 100-869 BC

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
PHILADELPHIA, PA.	5/11/43	3/2-6,8,11,12, 15-19,21,24, 31;4/6-9/43	[redacted] b7c
TITLE			CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS			INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress originated in 1935 and a delegation from Philadelphia attended the First National Convention in Chicago in 1936. ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET was First President of the Philadelphia Council. Others who have served as President of the Council are DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS and GOLDIE ERVIN (WATSON). The Second National Convention of the National Negro Congress was held at Philadelphia on 10/15,16 and 17,1937. The program of this Second National Convention is set forth. In 1938, TOM NABRIED, who is a member of the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress, spoke on the infiltration of Communists into the National Negro Congress at the 1938 District Convention of the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania. The First Pennsylvania Conference of the National Negro Congress was held in Philadelphia on 10/25 and 26,1940, with 151 delegates present. The activities of the Philadelphia Council from the time of formation through 1942 are set forth together with a brief background sketch of some of the active local members.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Philadelphia, Pa., on January 25, 1941.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 29, 1941. b7c
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Chicago, Illinois, on February 1, 1941.

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DETAILS:

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I ORIGIN IN PHILADELPHIA, 1935 - 1936

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[redacted] advised this office that he had ascertained from [redacted] who was a member of the National Negro Congress until 1937, that the Philadelphia Council of the NNC was formed in 1935. Its program was for the promotion of better understanding between the White and Negro races. [redacted] told Informant that the first meeting was attended by some of the country's most outstanding people.

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[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that [redacted] with Dr. CHARLES LEWIS, ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET and many other Philadelphia Negroes, traveled by train to attend the First Convention of the NNC in Chicago in 1936. ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET headed the delegation from Philadelphia.

[redacted] stated that when they arrived in Chicago, it was found that the hall was packed with members of the Communist Party and it was necessary for the State Police to clear the hall before the convention began.

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[redacted] advised that FAUSET became the first president of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC. He said that FAUSET is generally considered by Philadelphia Negroes to have Communistic leanings although he is not known to be a Party member [redacted]

It is observed from the reference report by the Chicago Field Division that the Second National Convention of the NNC was held in Philadelphia in October, 1937. The following information concerning this convention was obtained from the October 17, 1937, and October 24, 1937, issues of the "Philadelphia Independent" which is a Negro newspaper published in Philadelphia.

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II N.N.C. NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA - 1937

It is observed from the reference report of the Chicago Field Division that the Second National Convention of the NNC was held in Philadelphia in October, 1937. The following information concerning the convention was obtained from the October 17, 1937, and October 24, 1937, issues of the "Philadelphia Independent" which is a Negro newspaper published in Philadelphia.

The convention was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 15, 16 and 17, 1937, at the Metropolitan Opera House, Broad and Poplar Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. The "Independent" listed as "notables" attending the convention the following individuals:

WALTER WHITE of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People;

T. ARNOLD HILL of the National Urban League;

Dr. HARRY F. WARD of the American League Against War and Fascism;

Dr. MAX YERGAN

NORMAN THOMAS, "Socialist leader";

A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, "leader of the National Negro Congress";

CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET

THYRA EDWARDS

EDWARD STRONG

S. DAVIS WILSON, Mayor of Philadelphia;

Lieutenant-Governor THOMAS A. KENNEDY of Pennsylvania;

Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO

F. D. PATTERSON, President, of the Tuskegee Institute

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At the 1937 convention of the NNC, the following officials were elected:

President	A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
Secretary	JOHN P. DAVIS
Vice Presidents	MAX YERGAN
	ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET
	Reverend W. H. JERNAGIN
	THYRA EDWARDS
Youth Secretary	EDWARD STRONG
Financial Secretary	GLADYS STONER
Treasurer	SIMPSON TATE
Regional Director - East	JAMES BAKER
Regional Director, Central Area	CHARLES W. BURTON
Regional Director - West	Dr. MATT CRAWFORD
Regional Director - South	CHARLOTTE H. BROWN
Regional Director, Southwest	DEWITT ALCORN

Members of the National Council of the N.N.C.

JERRY LOGAN (North Carolina)
HENRY DEAS (Boston)
A. R. MAYOL (New Jersey)
STANLEY COTTON (Indiana)
HENRY JOHNSON (Illinois)
CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET (Pennsylvania)
B. D. DAVIS (Pennsylvania)
FRANK CROSSWAITH (New York)
ALBERT FORSYTHE (New Jersey)
W. H. GORDON (Ohio)
ANGELO HERNDON (New York)
Reverend C. D. QUEEN (Virginia)
JAMES FORD (New York)
LEBRON SIMMONS (Michigan)

The following resolutions were passed at the 1937 convention:

1. In favor of unity of AFL and CIO;
2. For repeal of the Civil Service law allowing simultaneous employment of husband and wife;
3. For enlargment of the appropriation of the Wagner-Steagall Act to a billion dollars;
4. Opposition to appointment of Associate Justice HUGO BLACK;
5. Opposition to WPA discrimination;
6. For proportionate employment of Negroes by public utilities throughout the country;
7. For an anti-lynching bill;
8. For endorsement of the Tenants League
9. The admission of Negro patients to the Warm Springs, Georgia Paralysis Sanitarium.

The "Philadelphia Independent" of October 24, 1937, noted that the total number of delegates at the 1937 Convention of the NNC was 1,218. Detroit was chosen by the delegates as the next convention city. The Philadelphia delegation at the Convention was led by ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET who, according to the "Independent", "has carried the burden of local organization since the inception of the Congress".

The "Independent" of October 31, 1937, carried an item that ANGELO HERNDON of New York who had been elected to the National Council of the NNC, was also National Chairman of the Young Communist League. This item also stated that his brother, MILTON HERNDON, a member of the Young Communist League, had recently been killed in Spain while commanding a machine gun company of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

The following information concerning the Second National Negro Congress was obtained from its "Annual Program", photostatic copies of which are being retained in the file of the Philadelphia Field Division. This pamphlet gave the program for the convention on October 15,16 and 17, 1937. The pamphlet contained advertisements of "greetings" some of which were by the following groups:

1. The Peoples Congress for Democracy and Peace, sponsored by the American League Against War and Fascism, 268 Fourth Avenue, New York City;
2. The Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, 1109 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.;
3. Labor's Non-partisan League, Washington, D. C.
4. National Urban League;
5. United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO;
6. The International Workers Order, 8 Fifth Avenue, New York City;

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7. The Philadelphia District Committee of the International Workers Order, 101 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.;
8. District 5 (Pittsburgh) of United Mine Workers of America;
9. The International Committee on African Affairs, 8 West 40th Street, New York City;
10. Law offices of RAYMOND PACE ALEXANDER, 1900 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.;
11. State, County and Municipal Workers of America, CIO;
12. The Committee on Race, Religions - Society of Friends, Philadelphia;
13. The Daily and Sunday Worker;
14. Philadelphia Workers School (CARL REEVE, Director), 1314 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
15. Y.W.C.A., 1805 Catherine Street, and 758 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
16. World Tourists, Inc., 75 Fifth Avenue, New York City (whose advertisement stresses a "20% reduction on Soviet tours);
17. The Young Communist League of Philadelphia;
18. The American League Against War and Fascism; (538 Widener Building, Philadelphia, Pa.)
19. The North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy and the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy;
20. The Central Committee of the Communist Party by WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, EARL BROWDER and JAMES W. FORD;
21. The Negro Work Committee of the Socialist Party by A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, Chairman and ALFRED BAKER LEWIS, Secretary;
22. United Mine Workers of America, District 50, Washington, D. C.;
23. The Fisk University.

The Congress was to be at the Independence Hall, 4:00 PM on October 15, with the opening remarks to be made by Dr. W. HARRY BARNES. Also on this opening program were the Lincoln University Quartette, the Honorable S. DAVIS WILSON, Mayor of Philadelphia, Mrs. ADDIE W. DICKERSON, Mr. HERBERT T. MILLER, A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, President of the NNC, and Mr. WALKER K. JACKSON.

At the Friday, October 15 evening meeting, the following appeared on the program: Mayor S. DAVIS WILSON, Dr. W. HARRY BARNES, Reverend D. W. HENRY, who gave the invocation, Magistrate EDWARD W. HENRY, ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, Regional Vice President of the NNC, Dr. CHARLES A. LEWIS, Dr. CHARLES HAWKINS BROWN, President of the Palmer Memorial Institute, A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH, JOHN P. DAVIS, and Reverend MARSHALL L. SHEPARD who gave the benediction.

Appearing on the Saturday evening program were the following:

ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, who presided;
Lieutenant Governor THOMAS KENNEDY of Pennsylvania, who was "official delegate from the Committee for Industrial Organization";
Reverend E. LICORISH of Brooklyn, who gave the invocation;
Dr. CHARLES WESLEY BURTON of Chicago, Illinois;
EDWARD STRONG of Richmond, Virginia;
Reverend MARSHALL L. SHEPARD, member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature;
JAMES W. FORD, New York City;
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH of New York City;
MAX YERGAN of New York City;
JOHN P. DAVIS;
Reverend ARCHIBALD J. CAREY of Chicago who gave the benediction.

The following appeared on the Sunday, October 17 evening program:

LESTER GRANGER of New York City, who presided;
A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH;
Reverend WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN of Washington, D. C., who gave the invocation;
Mrs. CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET of Philadelphia;
Mr. EUGENE NICKLE JONES, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League;
VITO MARCANTONIO, "President of the International Labor Defense";
WALTER WHITE, Secretary of the NNACP;
Dr. CHARLES WESLEY of Howard University;
F. D. PATTERSON, President of Tuskegee Institute;
JOHN P. DAVIS, Washington, D. C.;
THOMAS ELSA JONES, President of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee
Dr. ARTHUR BALDWIN of Philadelphia who gave the benediction.

A "special sub-section entitled, 'Symposium on War and Fascism' was scheduled for Sunday afternoon. The Chairman was to be Mr. HARRY HEYWOOD of Chicago who "had just returned from Spain where he was a member of the Staff of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade". Speakers at this sub-section were as follow:

Miss LUISE THOMPSON of New York City who "was delegate of the National Negro Convention to the World Congress on anti-Fascism, in Paris, France, September, 1937" and who "also visited the trenches of war-torn Spain";

Reverend WILLIAM LLOYD IMES, New York, who was active in the United Ethiopian Aid Society;
Mr. C. S. CHANG, delegate from the American Friends of the Chinese People;
Miss HARU MATSUI, "delegate from Japan";
Dr. KURT ROSENFELD, New York City;
Mr. NORMAN THOMAS, New York City - Socialist candidate for President in 1936;
Dr. F. HERMAN BEISSIG, Chairman of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy;
Mr. CLARENCE HATHAWAY, Editor of "The Daily Worker";
Dr. HARRY WARD, President of the American League Against War and Fascism.

The following participated in the Youth Section held on Sunday:

JOHN YELDELL, Chairman of one group at the section and who is Chairman of the Washington Youth Council;
EDWARD E. STRONG, National Youth Chairman, NNC;
JOHN BATTISTE, Jr., President of the City-Wide Young People's Forum of Philadelphia and Chairman of the second group at the Youth Section;
MARTIN L. HARVEY of Hempstead, New York, President of the Christian Youth Council of North America;
JOHN F. PURDUE, President of the West Philadelphia Youth Civic League;
Miss DOROTHY GRAY of Berkley, California, Chairman of the Northern California Youth Section of the NNC;
HURLEY PEEBLES, Philadelphia, organizer of the CIO;
Miss ESTHER McNEILL of Washington, D. C., member of the National Board of the Affiliated Workers School and delegate of Local No. 27, United Office Workers of America;
LEWIS E. BURNHAM of New York City, Southern Director of the American Students Union;
Miss MARJORIE PENNY of Philadelphia, Executive Secretary of the Young People's Inter-racial Fellowship;
WILLIAM F. RICHARDSON of Richmond, Virginia, Chairman of the Southern Negro Youth Congress;
HARRY WINSTON, New York City, National Administrative Secretary of the Young Communist League of the United States.

PHILADELPHIA FILE NO. 100-869

The Trade Union Section, held on Saturday, October 16, and Sunday, October 17, was divided into four groups. One group, concerned with "Industrial Unionism and the Negro" was participated in by the following individuals:

FRED D. STUBBS, Chairman, from Fairmount, West Virginia, delegate from District 31, United Mine Workers of America;

FRANK R. CROSSWAITH of New York City, delegate from the Socialist Party and organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union;

K. ALSTON, Richmond, Virginia, delegate from the Southern Negro Youth Congress and CIO organizer of Tobacco Workers;

MANNING JOHNSON of New York City, delegate from the Cafeteria Workers Union, Local No. 302, AFL;

REYNOLDS CLAYTON of San Francisco, California, Vice President of the District Council, No. 2, of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast.

In the second group of the Trade Union sections, discussing "Organization of Negro Workers", the following participated:

Miss MAUDE WHITE, Chairman, of Cleveland, Ohio;

PAUL KIRK of Detroit, organizer for the United Automobile Workers of America;

WILLIAM SAXBY TOWNSEND of Chicago, President of the International Brotherhood of Station Porters;

JAMES NELSON, Washington, D. C., President of District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America;

PHILLIP MURRAY of Pittsburgh, Pa.;

GEROME DAVIS, New Haven, Connecticut, President of the American Federation of Teachers.

Participating on Sunday, October 17, in a group of the Trade Union Sections, discussing "Labor Legislation and the Negro" were the following:

JOSEPH COOK, Chairman, of South Chicago, Illinois, President of Valley Mould Lodge of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers;

CHARLES HUNT of Philadelphia, President of Local No. 474, American Federation of Teachers;

TIMOTHY HOLMES, New York City, [redacted]

SIDNEY WILLIAMS of St. Louis, Missouri, Industrial Secretary of the St. Louis Urban League;

WILLIAM JASON, Philadelphia, Chairman of the Labor Committee of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC.

Participating in the Sunday group of the Trade Union Sections, discussing, "Initiating Negro Workers into the Labor Movement" were the following:

BEN CAREATHERS, Chairman, of Pittsburgh, Pa.;
N. WALTERS of New York, delegate from the Socialist Party;
B. D. AMIS of Philadelphia, organizer for the Steel Workers Organizing Committee;
A. W. MERRY, New York City, delegate from the Communist Party;
HENRY JOHNSON of Chicago, CIO organizer of Steel Packing House Workers.

The Civil Liberties Sections consisted of four groups. On Saturday, October 16, one of the groups discussed "Physical violence" with HOBSON REYNOLDS of Philadelphia, Pa., serving as Chairman. The discussion leaders were as follow:

THAEOPHILUS J. HUSTON of Washington, D. C., "delegate from the Washington Committee Against Police Brutality";
RICHARD B. MOORE of New York City, Vice President of the International Labor Defense.

Chairman of the group discussing "denial of citizen rights" was Dr. HARRY J. GREENE of Philadelphia, President of the Philadelphia Branch of the NAACP. Discussion leaders of this group were as follow:

RAYMOND PACE ALEXANDER of Philadelphia, Pa., past President of the National Bar Association;
FITZ HUGH LEE STYLES of Philadelphia, author of "The Negro and the Law".

Chairman of the group discussing "Anti-labor Activities" was JULIAN STEELE of Boston, Massachusetts. Discussion leaders were:

BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, "Attorney in the celebrated case of ANGELO HERNDON" and columnist for the "Sunday Worker";
MAURICE SUGAR of Detroit, Michigan, "labor attorney for the United Automobile Workers of America".

Participating in the group which discussed "Freedom of Speech and Assembly" were Dr. ROBERT A. SIMMONS, Boston, Massachusetts, Chairman, and delegate from the New England Congress for Equal Opportunities", and Attorney NORMAN McGHEE of Cleveland, Ohio, together with ANGELO HERNDON of New York City.

The "Government Worker" section was divided into two groups discussing "The Moving Disabilities of Negro Workers in Government Service" and "A Legislative Program for Negro Government Workers". The Chairman of the first group was U. SIMPSON TATE of Washington, D. C. The participants in this group were: ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT of Washington, D. C., Vice President of the United Federal Workers of America; JOHN C. LYMAS, Philadelphia, "delegate from the National Alliance of Postal Employees" and ABRAM FLAXER, New York City, "Executive Vice President of the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees of America".

The Chairman of the second group was JERRY O. GILLIAN of Norfolk, Virginia, past President of the National Alliance of Postal Employees. Those participating in this discussion were WILLIAM GAULDEN of New York City, organizer for the Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers of America, and ELEANORE NELSON of Washington, D. C., National Secretary-Treasurer of the United Federal Workers of America.

There were two "Unemployment Sections" scheduled; one discussing the "Jobless Negro". The Chairman was WAYNE L. HOPKINS of Philadelphia, Pa., Chairman of the Armstrong Association of Philadelphia. Participating in this group were the following:

WILLIAM E. HILL, Pittsburgh, Pa., Industrial Secretary of the Pittsburgh Urban League;
EDWARD LEIS, Baltimore, Maryland, Secretary of the Baltimore Urban League;
MARTIN RICHARDSON, Jacksonville, Florida, Secretary of the Jacksonville Council of the NNC.

The other group discussed "A Legislative Program for the Unemployed" under the Chairmanship of JAMES H. BAKER, Jr., New York City. The discussion leaders participating were the following:

RUSSELL WATSON of Philadelphia, Pa., Secretary of the Philadelphia Workers Alliance;
LEE MORGAN of Columbus, Ohio, member of the National Executive Board of the Workers Alliance of America.

The "Education Section" was held on Saturday and the topic of discussion was "The Problem of Negro Education". The Chairman was Mrs. MARY FOLEY GROSSMAN of Philadelphia, Pa., Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers. The discussion leaders participating were the following:

CLARENCE WHYTE, Philadelphia, Pa., Principal of the Durham School;
DOXEY A. WILKINSON, Washington, D. C. Assistant Professor of Education at Howard University;
CHARLES H. HUSTON of New York City "General Council for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People".

The topic of discussion for the "Health Session" was "The Health of the American Negro" and the Chairman was Dr. MELVIN A. LOFTON of Philadelphia, Pa. The discussion leaders participating were the following:

DR. JOHN WEST of New York City;
DR. HENRY A. CALLIS of Washington, D. C., Professor of Medicine at Howard University.

The "Housing Sessions" consisted of two groups discussing "The Housing of Negroes in America" and "The Federal Housing Program and the Negro". Chairman of the first group was E. WASHINGTON RHODES of Philadelphia, Editor of "The Philadelphia Tribune". Participating in this discussion were the following:

JOHN T. CLARK of St. Louis, Missouri, Secretary of the St. Louis Urban League;
JOHN GRAY of Chicago, Illinois, Secretary of the "Southside Tenants League;
DEWEY R. JONES, Washington, D.C, with the Department of Interior

Chairman of the second group was LEBRON SIMMONS of Detroit, Michigan.

The discussion leaders participating were the following:

ROBERT C. WEAVER, Washington, D.C., "Economic Advisor to the Secretary of Interior";
MARRILL C. WORK of Detroit, Michigan, leader of the "Tenant's League" movement in Detroit.

Topics for the two groups of the "Women's Sessions" were "The Economic Crisis and Negro Women" and "Other Problems of Negro Women". Chairman of the first group was Miss MARION CUTHBERT of New York City. Participating in the discussion were the following:

Mrs. MARY E. MOORE of Boston, Massachusetts;
Miss CLAUDIA CUMBERBATCH of New York City

Chairman of the second group was Miss ELSIE MOUNTAIN of Kansas City, Missouri. The discussion leaders were MRS. SUE BAILEY THURMAN of Washington, D.C., and Miss HELEN HOLMAN of New York City, "Associate Editor of Women Today" and "active in 'The Women's Charter Movement'".

The topic of discussion for the "Farm Session" was "The Negro Farm Worker and Farmer". The Chairman was JESSE HOLMES of Moylan, Pa., emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Swarthmore College. The discussion leaders participating were the following:

CLAUDE WILLIAMS of Mena, Arkansas, Professor at Commonwealth College;
LEON TURNER of Arkansas, member of the "Southern Tenant Farmers Union";
Mrs. MARIE BUTLER of Alabama, "sharecropper" and -
DONALD HENDERSON, Washington, D. C. President of the "United Agritultural and Cannery Workers Union"

The "Fraternal Session" discussed "Making Fraternal Orders Serve the Negro People". The Chairman was JULIAN HARRIS of Philadelphia, and the discussion leaders were the following:

Magistrate EDWARD W. HENRY of Philadelphia, Pa.;
Miss LOUISE THOMPSON of New York City, Secretary of the English Section of the International Workers Order

One group of the "Church Sessions" discussed "The Role of the Church in the Changing Social Order". The Chairman was the Reverend ARCHIBALD J. CAREY of Chicago, Illinois. Discussion leaders participating were the following:

Reverend ROBERT W. BAGNAL of Philadelphia, Pa.;
Reverend C. E. QUEEN of Richmond, Virginia;
Reverend E. L. LICORISH, National Chairman of the Church Committee of the NNC

The other group of the "Church Sessions" discussed the "Church and the Community". Participating were DEWITT T. A. ALCORN of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Chairman and Reverend WILLIAM H. JERNAGIN of Washington, D. C., as well as Reverend ELIM A. E. PALMQUIST of Philadelphia, Pa.

The "Foreign Born Session" discussed "Problems of the Foreign Born Negro". The Chairman was ROGER LAWS of Pittsburgh, Pa., Secretary of the "Pittsburgh Council of the NNC". Discussion leaders were the following:

ARTHUR SCHOMBURG of Brooklyn, New York
ALBERT E. FORSYTHE of Atlantic City, New Jersey

A "Cultural Session" was held discussing "The Negro Cultural Worker". The Chairman was EUGENE C. HOLMES of Washington, D. C., instructor at Howard University, and member of the staff of the Federal Writers Project. Discussion leaders participating were the following:

RICHARD WRIGHT of Chicago, Illinois;
FREDERICK DOUGLASS ALLEN of Toledo, Ohio;
W. FRANKLIN HOXTER of Philadelphia, Pa.;
ALAIN LOCKE of Washington, D. C.;
GUS SMITH of New York City, "dramatist, New Theatre League".

One page of the program contained the following "greeting" from the Philadelphia Council:

"The Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress greets delegates from America to the Second Congress at Philadelphia---Constitution City:

ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET	Chairman
Lucretia BOLLING	Secretary-Treasurer
JOHN BATTISTE	Co-Chairman, Youth Committee
JOHN PERDUE	Co-Chairman, Youth Committee
WILLIAM CHARLES JASON, JR.	Co-Chairman, Labor Committee
CHARLES L. HUNT	Co-Chairman, Labor Committee
Miss ALYSE ANDERSON	Co-Chairman, Women's Committee
Mrs. C. E. BOSWELL	Co-Chairman, Women's Committee
Mrs. THELMA PARTLOW TABB	Chairman, Church Committee
Mr. MARTIN FIELDS	Chairman, Speakers Bureau
Miss MAMIE DAVIS	Chairman, Housing Committee
Dr. FRANKLIN HOXTER	Chairman, Music Committee
LANCELOT TYNES	Co-Chairman, College Committee
Mr. ROBERT HILL	Co-Chairman, College Committee"

Two pages of the prgram were devoted to greetings to the Convention from the Committee for Industrial Organization, 1106 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C., and from JOHN L. LEWIS, its then Chairman.

Two pages of the program contained the "greetings" from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, over the name of A. PHILIP RANDOLPH.

One page contained pictures of the following individuals taken in the San Francisco Jail on November 10, 1936:

ISHMAEL FLORY JOHN P. DAVIS TOM MOONEY

and a "Negro member of the Executive Board of Local 38-79, International Longshoremen's Association". Below the picture appeared the statements, "TOM MOONEY Must Go Free," and "The First National Negro Congress passed a resolution demanding free dom for this victim of intolerance. As TOM MOONEY--- in all his twenty-one years in prison---has never forgotten the struggles of the Negro people, so they shall never cease to demand freedom and justice for him".

One page of the program was devoted to greetings from the International Labor Defense, over the names of VITO MARCANTONIO, President, RICHARD B. MOORE, Vice-President and ANNA DAMON, National Secretary.

It is noted that "The Philadelphia Independent" of November 14, 1937, states that the local meeting of the NNC was held at the YMCA in Philadelphia soon after the National Convention of 1937. ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET was Chairman

of this meeting and the speakers were the following:

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN of Sedalia, North Carolina;
Dr. HARRY J. GREENE, President of the Philadelphia Council of the NAACP;
WAYNE HOPKINS
CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET
WASHINGTON RHODES
B. D. AMIS
DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS

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[redacted] has advised that [redacted] stated to him that after the organization of the Local Branch of the NNC was begun in 1935, everything seemed to go along smoothly until 1937 at which time she became aware of the infiltration of Communistic elements and propaganda.

At a special meeting held in the O. V. Catto Hall, 16th and Fitzwater Streets, Philadelphia, the meeting was dominated by "Communist JAMES FORD and his followers" who insisted upon, and finally gained, the control of the meeting. They were also successful in installing their own followers in all of the offices of theCongress.

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[redacted] stated that Mrs. FAUSET severed relations with the NNC in 1937 evidently because of this Communistic infiltration.

III ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA - 1938

The Philadelphia Field Division has in its possession a pamphlet entitled, "Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania, 10th District Convention, May 20-22, 1938, Selected Speeches, Reports, Resolutions, etc." This pamphlet states that at this convention during May 20-22, 1938, JAMES W. FORD, "member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, reported on the political and economic situation throughout the Nation and indicated the tasks facing the District and the 10th National Convention". RUSSELL MATSON, a member of the NNC, was elected Chairman of the Resolutions Committee and TOM NABRIED was elected Chairman of the Negro Committee of the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania.

The pamphlet quotes a speech delivered at the Convention by "Comrade NABRIED" on "Negro Work". Part of this speech is as follows:

> "I want to speak now on the National Negro Congress. The Communist Party has no differences with the Congress. Since our defeat in the elections on February 4th to the Executive Committee, there has prevailed among many comrades an attitude of antagonism toward the leadership of the Congress. This has been expressed openly in many cases in the form of name calling by some of our leading Negro comrades, which is creating an unhealthy situation for carrying out our Party's tasks to build the Congress. It is true that FAUSET had adopted an anti-Party Red-baiting attitude and packed the Congress to defeat our comrades in the executive elections, but this attitude will not help us overcome this situation. We too must admit that our work in the Congress was not what it should have been. We attended many of the executive meetings helping to make decisions, but our work was not consistent in helping to carry out those decisions. Therefore, many honest elements in the Congress see FAUSET and our Party as the builder of the Congress.
>
> "However, since the elections, our work in the Congress has improved. The Trade Union Committee is following a progressive policy. The same can be said about the Housing Committee. The task before us is to assign leading Negro comrades to each of the Congress committees, not only as political leaders, but as active workers carrying out the program of the Congress which is the only way we will be able to eliminate some of the weaknesses of the Congress which are more or less national characteristics. They are a failure to get affiliations in between conventions, a neglect of mass work around the most immediate problems of the Negro people, and the neglect of many of the organizations affiliated to the Congress to carry out that part of the program of the Congress on the basis of which their organization affiliated. Each of these weaknesses must be eliminated through the work of our Party

"comrades in the Congress so that it will begin to fulfill its role of a unifying force of the Negro people and progressive White organizations to achieve national liberation for the Negro people and win the Negro masses to the side of progress and democracy. These comrades who work in organizations not yet affiliated to the Congress must direct the organizational objectives of these organizations toward progressive issues in their everyday work and clear the road for their later affiliation to the Congress, broadening the Congress as a whole.

"The Party in the outside sections has not utilized the many directives sent out by the District Borough for building local councils in towns with fairly large Negro communities. We must here realize that our work in building the Congress must be an integral part of the task of building the democratic front. The National Negro Congress is the future Negro People's Front in America."

At the end of NABRIED'S speech, this notation appears in this pamphlet:

"The Tenth District Convention of the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania approves the report of the District Borough on Negro work as given by Comrade TOM NABRIED."

It also appears from this pamphlet that the Communists passed a resolution at this convention "that the entire Party at once take up the question of sending Negro workers who are Progressive, into the ranks of the National Negro Congress, so that the Congress may have its activities channeled into lines of progress in the democratic front....."

The Daily Worker in its issue of July 26, 1938, carried an article presenting the Negroe's problems as explained by MAX YERGEN of the National Negro Congress. The Daily Worker of November 3, 1938, noted that JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress, was to be the next speaker of the People's Forum.

IV ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA - 1939

The Philadelphia Tribune, a Negro newspaper, published in Philadelphia by E. WASHINGTON RHODES, issue of January 12, 1939, carried an article stating that ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, a founder and the first President of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC had retired as the local president and that no new president had been elected. It listed the following as being officers of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC at that time:

Vice-Presidents	JOHN BAPTISTE, MAMIE E. DAVIS, WAYNE L. HOPKINS, JOHN LYNAS, HERBERT MILLEN
Secretary	GOLDIE ERVIN
Asst. Secretary	ALICE L. WHITE
Treasurer, Financial Director	- JULIAN HARRIS
Publicity	WILLIAM C. JASON, JR.
Membership	HELEN L. DUCKETT
Church committee	REV. E. LUTHER CUNNINGHAM
Civil Liberties Committee	- ADOLPHUS LEWIS
Cultural Committee	JOHN WILDER

The Philadelphia Tribune on March 2, 1939, stated that Dr. CHARLES LEWIS had been elected President of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC succeeding ARTHUR HUFF-FAUSET. He was elected at a meeting of the local group on February 23, 1939, at the YWCA, 1605 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. This article noted that LEWIS, a graduate of Lincoln University and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, has offices at Broad and Lombard Streets, Philadelphia, and is a member of the staff of the Douglas Hospital, Philadelphia. This same information is contained in the Philadelphia Independent issue of March 5, 1939.

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[redacted] a resolution dated July 28, 1939, which states that GOLDIE ERVIN was Secretary, JULIAN P. HARRIS, was Treasurer, and CELESTINE T. FULCHON was Financial Secretary of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC. This resolution was on stationery of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC which letterhead reflected the following as officers of the Philadelphia Council:

President	GOLDIE ERVIN
Vice President	DR. HARRY GREENE
Vice President	CHARLES FRED WHITE
Corresponding Secretary	GEORGE FRANCIS ARNOLD
Recording Secretary	ROSA PITTS
Financial Secretary	CELESTINE T. FULCHON

It is also noted on this letterhead that the offices of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC were at 1426 Lombard Street.

It should be noted that GOLDIE IRVIN has since married RUSSELL WATSON, [redacted]

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The Philadelphia Independent of December 3, 1939, quotes MAX YERGAN, National Vice President of the NNC as saying that France and England are guilty of the same crimes as is Germany and that no matter who wins the war, the Negro will lose.

JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary of the NNC was quoted in the Philadelphia Independent of December 14, 1939, as saying that the NNC is not a Communist Front organization and that he is not a member of the Communist Party. He called WILLIAM NORVELL who made such charges, "a liar".

V ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA - 1940

INCLUDING PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONVENTION

On October 25 and 26, 1940, the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC was held in Philadelphia at the McDowell's Community Church, 21st and Columbia Streets. The following information concerning this convention appeared in an article in the November 15, 1940 issue of the American Free Press which is a paper believed to have been published by the Communist Party and which was published in Philadelphia from February 15, 1940, to February 1, 1941, inclusive.

The speakers at the First Pennsylvania Conference were the following:

MAX YERGAN National President of the NNC
FREDERICK HOLMES of the Pittsburgh Council, NNC;
JOSEPH CURRAN of the NMU;
Mother ELLA REEVE BLOOR Communist
Congressional Candidate JOSEPH P. McGRANERY

Dr. YERGAN'S speech attacked the war moves of the Roosevelt administration.

Separate sessions were had at the Conference on "Citizenship Rights", "Job Opportunity", "Youth" and "the Building of the NNC".

MARY LOUISE TYSON, Chairman of the Youth Division of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC urged the creation of a Negro youth Council to work for equal job opportunities and educational and recreational facilities for Negro youth.

GOLDIE IRVIN, Secretary of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC offered a resolution which was passed unanimously to ammend the Civil Rights Statute "to make it effective". Resolutions were passed at the Conference against the poll tax, against the Pittsburgh school system for having only three Negro teachers and against "the unwarranted disregard of the citizenship rights of the Negroes displayed by the Philadelphia Police".

The Tenants League proposed a resolution which was passed, that they should work toward municipal legislation outlawing "Jim Crow" housing and rental policies.

The following information was obtained from the records furnished by [redacted] concerning the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC.

The report of the Resolutions Committee of the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC said that the "basic problem of the Negro people is unemployment...The National Negro Congress must lead the fight for tens of thousands of new jobs and for the opening up of positions in industries where Negroes are at present excluded".

The report also said that the NNC must aid in the defense "of the citizens rights of the Negro people" and "must aid in stopping the unnecessary prosecutions and violations of the civil liberties of the Negro people...". The report said that this aid could be given by the NNC members exposing cases of police brutality, protesting the indiscriminate arrests and by supporting anti-poll tax and anti-lynching bills. As to the war, this report stated that "the National Negro Congress desires to see our country kept out of this war". It also stated "Our First Pennsylvania State Conference pledged itself to support all legitimate movements to keep America at peace.... We support the bill of Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO, New York, for the repeal of the Conscription Act". This report was submitted by Chairman CELESTINE FULCHON of Philadelphia.

The members of the "Continuation Committee" of the First Pennsylvania State Conference were the following:

Chairman	GOLDIE ERVIN of Philadelphia
	BERNARD CHILDS of Philadelphia
	MERLE COOKE of Pittsburgh
	JESSIE DAVIS of Pittsburgh
	WILLIAM DAVIS of Pittsburgh
	CELESTINE FULCHON of Philadelphia
	JESSIE GOLVER of Lincoln University
	LUTHER GLENN of Pittsburgh
	MALVIN GOODE of Pittsburgh
	B. F. GIBSON of Pittsburgh
	FREDERICK HOLMES of Pittsburgh
	WILLIAM JASON of Philadelphia
	JOHN LYNAS of Philadelphia
	ROSA PITTS of Philadelphia
	RUSSELL WATSON of Philadelphia
	LOUIS YERGAN of Philadelphia

also, "representatives from Norristown, Lancaster and Chester to be named."

The report of the "Organization Committee" of the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC proposed a three-month organizational drive to begin in November of 1940. The quota set as the goal for the drive was the following:

"Pittsburgh - Council of fifty affiliates
Two city branches (individual members)
"Philadelphia - Council of one hundred affiliates
Three city branches (individual members)".

This Committee's report was submitted by Chairman RUSSELL WATSON and Secretary FREDERICK HOLMES.

ROSA PITTS, Financial Secretary, reported a "statement of income and expense" covering the Pennsylvania Conference as follows:

Income	$ 403.74	Amount in Bank	$ 110.83
Expenses	292.89	Accounts Payable	151.51

The report of the "Credential Committee" of the First Pennsylvania State Conference "of NNC" was submitted by Chairman CHARLES E. WHITE, Secretary Miss SOPHIE ELFONT, "Assistant" Miss WINNIE ARTIS, and members Miss ANNABELLE MAYS, Mrs. LAURA HARRIS, Mrs. SARA DENMAN, Miss LENA JOHNSON, Mrs. OLLIE HOLMES and Miss HATTIE MORRIS. This report noted that there were 151 delegates, 16 being from "out of town" and the rest, 135, from Philadelphia. 109 of the delegates were Negroes and 42 were white.

The report of the "Youth Session" was submitted by Chairman MARY L. TYSON and Secretary ANNABELLE MAYS. The session had been presided over by Miss TYSON and WILLIAM J. DAVIS gave a "special report" of the session.

By letter dated October 20, 1940, addressed to the delegates, GOLDIE IRVIN, as Chairman of the Continuation Committee of the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC conveyed the following information:

> "Our Job Campaign starts this week with a trip to Governor JAMES to discuss a more equitable distribution of State government jobs in the interest of Pennsylvania Negroes. We are now holding conversations with the United Retail and Wholesale Employees Union, No. 118, concerning joint action to place Negro men and women in Philadelphia Department stores."

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The records of [redacted] revealed that the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC considered its address to be 1501 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The records [redacted] reflect that under date of November 6, 1940, a notice was sent out by GOLDIE IRVIN stating that a meeting of the Continuation Committee of the State Conference would be held at 1501 South 16th Street, on Sunday, November 10, 1940. Its purpose was to discuss the Job Campaign, the delegation to Governor JAMES and other matters.

The records of [redacted] contained the following information concerning the participation of the Philadelphia Council at the National Negro Congress convention held in Washington, D. C., on April 27,28, 1940.

A letter signed by W. C. JASON, Director of Publicity, Philadelphia Council of the NNC, urged all supporters of the NNC to get their organizations to send delegates to the Washington convention. The letter advised that the local committee would arrange low-cost transportation for the delegates.

There were 132 delegates at the convention from Pennsylvania out of a total of 1264 delegates, according to the report of the Convention Committee of the Third Congress at Washington, D. C. It is noted that on the Convention Committee was Mrs. CELESTINE FULCHON, Secretary; Miss SOPHIE ELFONT, Assistant; Mrs. F. CHILDS and Dr. RANDALL.

5 In a report made after the Convention, and addressed to delegates who attended the Third NNC Convention, JOHN P. DAVIS, National Secretary, noted that Dr. CHARLES A. LEWIS of Philadelphia was elected a National Vice President of the NNC. His report stated that Pennsylvania members of the National Executive Board of the NNC were Miss GOLDIE ERVIN, Philadelphia; B. F. GIBSON, Pittsburgh, FRED HOLMES, Pittsburgh; WILLIAM JASON, Philadelphia, and CHARLES A. LEWIS of Philadelphia, Pa.

The "Philadelphia Independent" of May 5, 1940, contained the same information as to the election to office of these Pennsylvanians.

The following information concerning the activities of the National Negro Council in Philadelphia was obtained from [redacted]

In a mimeographed release by GOLDIE ERVIN, Secretary, DR. CHARLES LEWIS, President and WILLIAM C. JASON, Director of Publicity, of the Philadelphia Council, the following "record of our local activities" appeared:

"1. November, 1937 - Petitioned the Pennsylvania Legislature to appropriate $25,000 and investigate the housing conditions of Negroes in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

"2. December, 1937 - February 1938. Carried on a sustained campaign for slum clearance and Government low-cost housing; repeatedly going before the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

"3. March 1938. Took an active part with the NAACP in a one-day conference on anti-lynching in Washington which drew delegates from 19 states.

"4. April 1938 - September, 1938. Did activive contact and organizational work getting Negroes into both the AFL and CIO Labor Unions.

"5. October, 1938. Took delegation of 150 to Baltimore to participate in a Regional conference on jobs, housing and legislation.

"6. November, 1938 - January 1939. With the Armstrong Association, registered skilled Negro labor for placement on the several Government housing projects.

"7. February 1939. Began publishing a monthly bulletin 'We Are Rising' as the Council's official organ.

"8. March 1939. Inaugurated an educational feature at monthly delegates' meetings which are open.

"9. April 1939. Held a one-day conference on Legislation and the Negro, at O. V. Catto Elks Auditorium with 41 organizations participating and established a permanent committee to keep a permanent list of hostile and friendly legislation as well as hostile and friendly legislators.

"10. Held with the Douglas Hospital a memorial service to Dr. LAWRENCE FRICK, deceased, for his great assistance to Negroes suffering from tuberculosis.

"11. May, 1939. Held a motor-cade to the grave of the Negro composer, JAMES BLAND in Marion Cemetery.

"12. Held an exhibit of Negro Art for one month in the Artist Union's Studios on Walnut Street.

"13. October 1939 - March 1940. Organized and is running a Sunday Evening Forum at the YMCA with outstanding speakers on phases of the Negro Problem.

"14. January 1940. Adopted a local constitution.

"15. Sent delegates to the National Youth Congress.

"16. Is actively engaged in organizing domestic workers."

PHILADELPHIA FILE NO. 100-869

The February-March, 1940, issue of "We Are Rising" was furnished to Special Agent [redacted] by [redacted] It states that its Editorial Committee consists of the following:

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MARGARET CURRY	ANNABELLE MAYS
SOPHIE ELPHONT	BESSIE DIXON
WILLIAM C. JASON	WINNIE ARTIS

Chairman - THEODORE A. STANFORD

On Page 1, there is a notice of a meeting sponsored by the Workers Alliance to be held on Saturday, March 23, 1940, at 1:00 PM at Reyburn Plaza. This issue also contains an article attacking the Dies Committee and there is an article by MARY LOUISE TYSON on the Washington Convention of the American Youth Congress stating, "In the NNC Youth Group, we are supporting the AYC (American Youth Congress) program to the fullest". There is an article on FREDERICK DOUGLAS by MARIE S. CHASE, Principal of the Martha Washington School.

This issue further contains an article attacking "Gone With the Wind" as a "hate inspiring motion picture". An article by HARRY GREENE, President, Philadelphia Council of the NAACP, discusses the Anti-Lynching Bill. An article by SARAH J. JOHNSON states the Student Welfare Council, under Miss IDABELLE YEISER, has helped worthy students through school. An article by WILLIAM C. JASON urges the joining of the NNC.

The following items in the American Free Press appeared during 1940. In the issue of May 1, 1940, it is stated that the Philadelphia officers of the NNC are the following:

President	DR. CHARLES LEWIS
Secretary	GOLDIE ERVIN
Publicity Director	WILLIAM JASON

In the same issue, another item notes that TOM NABRIED, the Communist Party candidate for Congress, was active in the NNC. A third item in this issue notes that the NNC will lobby for the Anti-Lynching Bill.

The May 15, 1940, issue of the American Free Press contained a report on the National Convention of the NNC in Washington which stated that the NNC had voted to join with Labor's Non-Partisan League. In this same issue it was stated that MARY LOUISE TYSON was a member of the National Board of the NNC and a member of the National Youth Section.

The July 15, 1940, issue of the American Free Press contained an item stating that GOLDIE ERVIN, Secretary of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC had recently made a speech at a "neighborhood peace conference" of the Community Council. In the same issue, there was an article by FRANK DESTARE saying that the Youth Council of the National Negro Congress was against conscription and was in favor of work for Negroes.

The issue of November 15, 1940, of the American Free Press on Page [illegible] stated that MARY LOUISE TYSON was Chairman of the Youth Division of the [illegible] Philadelphia Council of the NNC.

The American Free Press on December 1, 1940, carried an article, stating that the Continuation Committee of the First Pennsylvania State Conference of the NNC wanted jobs in the department stores for Negroes. A Special Committee of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC, consisting of GOLDIE ERVIN, CHARLES FRED WHITE, MATTIE JOHNSON, RUSSELL WATSON and WILLIAM J. DAVIS was to meet with Dr. JACOB BILLIKOPH, Director of the Labor Standards Association.

The Philadelphia Tribune on May 2, 1940, contained an article by ORRIN EVANS stating that A. PHILIP RANDOLPH had said he would not run for re-election as President of the NNC because of the Communist influence. He had thereby warned the NNC that Communists were a menace to the Congress.

On May 9, 1940, the Tribune contained an article by GOLDIE ERVIN which contended that the NNC was not dominated by Communists. She stated in this article that only one member of the NNC was a Communist. She did not give the name of this individual. This same issue of the Tribune carried an article by A PHILIP RANDOLPH saying that "the Communist stigma is still on the NNC, that the principal contributions to the NNC come from the CIO and that the CIO and Communists will continue to dominate the NNC if the present situation continues". In this article, RANDOLPH states that he resigned from the NNC because "its officials are sympathetic to the U.S.S.R." and he believes that "so long as the NNC accepts dictation from the CIO and from the Communists, it will not be representative of Negroes".

An article similar to this one by RANDOLPH, and quoting him, appears in the Philadelphia Independent in the May 12, 1940 issue. This article in the Independent added that the NNC is alleged to have passed a resolution to the effect that if the United States went to war with Russia, the Congress would refuse to defend the United States.

WILLIAM C. JASON in the May 16, 1940, issue of the Philadelphia Tribune, denied on behalf of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC that the NNC had any political affiliations.

As related in the American Free Press of December 15, 1940, the NNC and the Committee for Peoples Rights joined in a mass meeting to protest the arrest of 565 Negroes by the Philadelphia Police Department in the 20th Ward on November 16 and 17, 1940. The meeting was held at St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, on December 4, 1940. The speakers at this joint meeting were the following:

Magistrate RAINEY
Magistrate MYERS
Attorney LOUIS F. McCABE
GOLDIE ERVIN of the NNC
Dr. HARRY GREEN of the NAACP

ANNA M. W. PENNYPACKER of the Committee for Peoples Rights
CHARLES SPENCER, organizer for the Communist Party, Third Congressional District
Mrs. EDITH HURLEY of Philadelphia Teachers of Colored Children
Mrs. MARY POWERS of the Community Council
SAM EVANS of the Philadelphia Youth Movement
Dr. JOHN RICE of the North Philadelphia Civic Club
SOL HYMAN of Philadelphia Youth Council

The article in the American Free Press relates that the Communist Party later sent a delegation to Major LAMBERTON concerning these arrests and the Committee for Peoples Rights circulated a petition demanding punishment of the Police. The Communist Party demanded punishment of the Police and upholding of the rights of the Negroes. ANNA M. W. PENNYPACKER, Secretary of the Committee for Peoples Rights and GOLDIE ERVIN, Secretary of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC sent telegrams of protest to Attorney General JACKSON asking that he instruct the United States Attorney to investigate.

[redacted] stated that the attendance at the meeting held at St. Paul's Baptist Church on December 4, 1940, was poor as the Negroes were apathetic toward it.

An article in the Philadelphia Afro-American, a Negro newspaper, published in Philadelphia, in the issue of December 28, 1940, stated that the Philadelphia Council of the NNC also held a meeting at the YWCA protesting the arrest of 565 Negroes in the 20th Ward, GOLDIE ERVIN, Secretary of the Philadelphia Council, presided. EDWARD JENKINS, Treasurer, stated the arrests were political reprisals. BERNARD CHILDS, Executive Secretary, Tenants League of Philadelphia, also spoke against the arrests.

On December 21, 1940, the AFRO-AMERICAN stated that the National Negro Congress was urging the Governor of Pennsylvania to drop the job color bars. This was done through a committee composed of the following:

Chairman GOLDIE ERVIN
RITA COHEN
MATTIE JOHNSON
HAROLD KOTZKER
RUSSELL WATSON
CHARLES FRED WHITE

VI ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA - 1941

The American Free Press of February 1, 1941, on Page 1, reported a mass meeting sponsored by the Philadelphia Council of the NNC, with RUSSELL WATSON as Chairman, held at the St. Joseph's Baptist Church, 1440 North Warnock Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The purpose of the meeting was to protest remarks made by Judge McDEVITT in Philadelphia at the trial of a Negro.

The files of the Philadelphia Field Division reflect that on April 4, 1941, RUBIN A. CARR of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC sent a letter to President Roosevelt in which he stated that the following resolutions had been adopted unanimously at the meeting of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC:

"RESOLUTION ON EARL BROWDER

"WHEREAS: The unjust conviction and imprisonment of EARL BROWDER, leader of the American Communist Party was dictated by war hysteria and not by reason or law, and

"WHEREAS: Such high-handed methods of dealing with a citizen, especially one who is widely known as BROWDER is, as an uncompromising fighter for the best interests of ALL people, white or black, for peace and against war, can be justified only by those who are intent upon fostering upon the American people a war for empire which offers them nothing but increased burdens, suffering and death, and

"WHEREAS: The attacks upon EARL BROWDER and the Communist Party are only the prelude to an open fascist assault upon the civil-liberties, rights and peace efforts of the overwhelming majority of the democracy-loving people of the United States, and

"WHEREAS: The present attack upon the Communists, the unions, the peace groups of the workers and even deportation proceedings against their honest leaders resemble the pattern and methods followed in wiping out democracy in Germany, Italy, France and now, England, preparatory to setting up the most ruthless dictatorship the world has ever known, fascism, the American brand of which the people will resist, as well as defending the country against the aggression of foreign hounds, therefore be it

"RESOLVED: That every effort be made to effect the unconditional release of Mr. EARL BROWDER whose imprisonment represents the efforts of the war mongers to stiffle the voice of the people and smother their demands for PEACE."

The Philadelphia Afro-American of April 19, 1941, stated in an editorial that it was glad to hear from JOHN P. DAVIS, Secretary of the NNC, that the NNC gets no support and takes no orders from Moscow nor the Communist Party.

There is being maintained in the Philadelphia file of this case a photographic copy of the 1941 yearbook of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC. The editor of this yearbook is stated to be GEORGE FRANCIS ARNOLD. In this yearbook, the following officers of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC are listed:

President	GOLDIE ERVIN
Vice Presidents	CHARLES FRED WHITE
	HARRY GREENE (Dr.)
Corresponding Secretary	GEORGE FRANCIS ARNOLD
Recording Secretary	WILBERT McCAME
Treasurer	ROSA PITTS
Financial Secretary	CELESTINE FULCHON
City Executive Board	EUGENE BURNS
	OLIVER BOUTTES
	RACHAEL COHN
	WILLIAM J. DAVIS
	HELEN DUCKETT
	REVEREND H.M. HASSELL FLETCHER
	EZIE GRAY
	EDITH HURLEY
	WILLIAM JASON
	LENA JOHNSON
	HAROLD KOTZKER
	THOMAS NABRITO
	ANNA PENNYPACKER
	E. WASHINGTON RHODES
	REV. C. M. SMITH
	FRANCIS ST. CLAIR
	MARY LOUISE TISON
	RUSSELL WATSON

The "Yearbook" contained a "Message from the President", GOLDIE ERVIN, to the effect that we must not get involved in the war, but must create a democracy here in the United States. Part of this message is as follows:

> "We are told that we must not let England down, because it is the last 'bulwark of Democracy'. We must 'preserve our civilization'. We must save the 'Democratic Way,' by rushing to the aid of Great Britain. I disagree with this point of view. This whole chorus of war hysteria is the greatest hoax of history. Great Britain is not and never has been a democracy.* * *We are again heading toward war, and the Negro citizen is again called on to do his part.

"He is called on to do his part while the Administration ignores the Anti-Lynching and Anti-Poll Tax Bills, and winks at lynching and burning of Americans.* * * The National Negro Congress has embarked upon a program that can bring about a better life for Negro America. The program includes

(1) increasing job opportunities for our people;
(2) the winning of the franchise in the South;
(3) maintaining and extending civil liberties;
(4) safeguarding Democracy by keeping America at peace."

This "Yearbook" contained many advertisements, included among which were advertisements by the Locust Book Shop, 269 South 11th Street (the Communist bookstore in Philadelphia); by the Communist Party, Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and by the North Philadelphia Civic Improvement League.

Also maintained in the Philadelphia file in this case is a photostatic copy of a release urging the joining of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC which states that the individual membership dues are $1.00 and the dues for affiliated organizations are $3.00.

[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that the "Call" to an "Emergency Conference for Participation of Negroes in National Defence Week" was sponsored by a group of people which included many members of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC. This conference was to be on Tuesday, November 18, 1941, at 8:00 PM at the YWCA, 1605 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The meeting was called for the purpose of seeing that Negroes participate fully in the National Defense Week. The "Call" was signed by the following people:

REVEREND GEORGE ALLEN of the West Philadelphia Recreation Center
OLIVER BOUTTE of the National Maritime Union
FATHER TOLLIE CAUTION, Pastor, St. Augustine Episcopalian Church;
REVEREND E. L. CUNNINGHAM, Pastor, St. Paul's Baptist Church
MAMIE DAVIS, Secretary of the Southwest Branch of the YWCA and member of the Philadelphia Council
GOLDIE ERVIN, Philadelphia Council President
ARTHUR FAUSET, Principal, Douglass-Singerly School
HARRY GREENE, President, Pennsylvania Council of the NAACP
EDITH HURLEY, Chairman, Philadelphia Association of Colored Children
ADOLPHUS LEWIS, President, Douglass-Singerly Parent-Teachers Association
DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS of the Citizens Republican Club
RAYMOND MILLER, Director, Susan Wharton Settlement
REVEREND FRANK MITCHELL, Pastor, Galilee Baptist Church
REVEREND ISAAC L. PATTERSON, Presiding Elder, West Philadelphia District A.M.E. Church
JOHN PERDUE, West Philadelphia Youth Civic League
HOBSON REYNOLDS of the Chris. Perry Lodge of Elks
E. WASHINGTON RHODES, Publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune
DR. JOHN K. RICE, President, North Philadelphia Civic League
THEODORE SPAULDING, President, Philadelphia Chapter, NAACP

REVEREND MARSHALL L. SHEPARD, Pastor, Mt. Olive Tabernacle Baptist Church, Member, Pennsylvania State Legislature

Dr. JOHN P. TURNER, Member Philadelphia Board of Education and Philadelphia Defense Council

The American Free Press on January 1, 1941, noted that the National Negro Congress had been represented at the Philadelphia Youth Council's Second Assembly of Youth.

[redacted] advised that a meeting was held on January 15, 1941, by the Committee for Peoples Rights at the Academy of Music, Broad and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. The meeting was attended by approximately 500 people. The speakers were as follow: b7D

LEONARD TITELMAN - Chairman
Professor EDWIN HARRY BURGUM, New York University, New York City
HERBERT WALT of the American Students Union, New York City
EUGENE CONNALLY of the American Labor Party, New York City
Professor WILLIAM M. MALISOFF of Brooklyn Polytechnic
HOPE R. STEVENS of the National Negro Congress, New York City

[redacted] advised that a meeting was held on January 21, 1941, under the joint auspices of the Committee for Peoples Rights and the National Negro Congress at St. Joseph's Baptist Church, 1440 North Warnock Street, at 8:00 PM. RUSSELL ROBERT WATSON was in charge of the meeting. One of the speakers was Mrs. HELEN DUCKETT who spoke against the recent arrest made by the Philadelphia Police Department of 565 Negroes. She also made a plea for membership in the National Negro Congress saying that there are three classes of membership: "Organization Executive membership - for an annual fee of $3.00; 2. Sponsoring membership - for an annual fee of $1.00 and 3. an Executive membership for 25 cents as a joining fee and ten cents a month". b7D

Another speaker on the same program was CHARLES SPENCER [redacted] other speakers at this meeting on January 21, 1941, were RUSSELL ROBERT WATSON, ALBERT MILLER. He recalled that Mrs. DUCKETT had been introduced as a member of the Executive Board of the National Negro Congress. b7C,D

The Philadelphia Tribune on February 20, 1941, contained an article stating that the NNC had urged the Pennsylvania State Leaders to back a bill for WPA funds.

[redacted] advised that GEORGE F. ARNOLD, Corresponding Secretary of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC had sent a letter dated May 24, 1941, to members of the Philadelphia Council telling them that a meeting would be held on May 29, 1941 at the YWCA, 1605 Catherine Street. At the meeting, reports of the activities of the local branches were to be given by the following individuals: b7D

North Philadelphia	Mrs. MAMIE THOMAS
South Philadelphia	Mrs. WILBERT McCABE
West Philadelphia	Mrs. CELESTINE FULCHON
For "Youth"	Mrs. LENA SMITH

This same letter contained a notice that on June 13, 1941, the Philadelphia Council of the NNC would present for the defense of the Negro people, at the Witherspoon Auditorium, Mr. MAX YERGAN, President of the NNC. The program also consisted of Dr. HELIA V. DODD, Legislative Representative of Local No. 5, American Federation of Teachers, and some entertainment features.

The Philadelphia Independent on October 26, 1941, contained an article stating the NNC planned to entertain sixty soldiers from Camp Dix. The plan was organized by GOLDIE ERVIN, President of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC, Reverend GEORGE ALLEN, Director of the West Philadelphia Recreation Center, and Mrs. WALTER KRAIG, President of the Home Hospitality Committee of the Philadelphia Defense Council.

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[redacted] the National Negro Congress had since 1941 attempted to get in USO work. In November of 1941, while the Negro Anti-Aircraft Battalion was protecting the City of Philadelphia, GOLDIE ERVIN telephoned the YWCA at 1605 Catherine Street, while a colored dance was in progress there and asked that some of the Negro soldiers be sent to the dance being given by the Philadelphia Council, NNC, at the NYA Center, Mantua Avenue. [redacted] none of the Negro boys wanted to go to the NNC dance, but one of the officers drove a carload of them to the NNC dance. Since that occasions, GOLDIE ERVIN has telephoned several times to the YWCA requesting that soldiers be sent to NNC dances.

b7D

In the Philadelphia Record of December 11, 1941, there appeared a letter signed by GOLDIE ERVIN, President of the Philadelphia Council, NNC, which stated that the Japanese attack should show the United States that fascism should be crushed. The letter stated that Negroes should rid themselves of any pro-Japanese sentiments and that "we must join hands with Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China to wipe aggression from the face of the earth".

b7D

[redacted] advised that TOM NABRIED, a member of the Philadelphia Council, NNC, was a candidate in 1941 for City Treasurer on the Communist Party ticket and he understood that the NNC had solicited names for the Communist candidate petitions in the 1941 elections.

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VII ACTIVITIES IN PHILADELPHIA - 1942

b7D

[redacted] a meeting of the NNC was held [redacted] the discrimination against Negro sailors and soldiers at the 15th Street Recreation Center (USO) was discussed. Also discussed was the possibility of becoming associated in securing benefits for the Russian War Relief, Inc. [redacted]

[redacted] a meeting of the Philadelphia Council, NNC [redacted] the speakers included a Mr. FOX from the Russian War Relief. [redacted] that Miss ANNA PENNYPACKER was observed among those present at this meeting. b7D

Further information concerning this meeting of the Philadelphia Council [redacted] one of the main speakers was OLIVER G. BOUTE, organizer for the NMU and a member of the NNC who spoke on the problem of getting Negro workers into defence plants. b7D

[redacted]

Also discussed at this meeting were the topics of how pressure could be brought on the Government to free EARL BROWDER, of Negro employment in defence work and of entertaining Negro soldiers from Army camps. b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that the Philadelphia Council of the NNC held a meeting [redacted] HELEN DUCKETT was a speaker at this meeting. [redacted] a Mr. JASON, probably WILLIAM C. JASON, spoke on the second front question. b7D

b7D

[redacted] a meeting of the Philadelphia Council [redacted] NNC was held [redacted] Miss [redacted] presided over this meeting and about [redacted] in attendance. One of the main speakers was OLIVER BOUTTE who spoke on the racial discrimination prevailing at the Frankford Arsenal. A Mr. SHEEHAN, organizer for the Federal Employees Union, of 1937 South Broad Street, stated that the United States Government was trying to eliminate discrimination in industries through the instrumentality of the Fair Practice Commission yet, he said, the Government yards in Philadelphia have the worst kind of discrimination. He stated that there was a local Federal Employees Union in Navy Yard No. 118 and that all Negroes employed there should join this union. Two Negroes, a Mr. GRICE and a Mr. RANDOLPH, stated that they had been discriminated against at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and SHEEHAN said that he would help them before the Fair Practice Commission. RUSSELL WATSON, a CIO organizer in Chester, Pa., spoke Yard No. 4 of the Sun Ship Yard, stating that Yard No. 4 is being operated completely by Negroes.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] BOUTTE spoke on a "report of war production" and in this speech said he and HELEN DUCKETT had talked to the Colonel in charge of the Frankford Arsenal who had told them that there would always be discrimination at the Frankford Arsenal.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D,C

[redacted] b7C,D

From a review of the Philadelphia Independent by Special Agent [redacted] it was ascertained that the National Negro Congress had said that the [redacted]

Dies Committee activities had served to convert the Ku Klux Klan and other fascist organizations operating in our midst." This appeared in the issue of March 22, 1942.

The Philadelphia Independent issue of June 21, 1942, quoted MAX YERGAN, National President of the NNC as having described the pact between the United States, USSR and Great Britain as "a guarantee to all peoples of their march to freedom".

The Daily Worker of April 1, 1942, contained excerpts from the speech given at the Free Browder Congress in Manhatten, given the preceding Saturday by HELEN DUCKETT. She stated at this meeting that she was pleased to attend it as a representative of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC and urged that "Browder must be free".

The Daily Worker of July 24, 1942, contained an item stating, "Leaders of the Negro people of Philadelphia have telegraphed President Roosevelt asking that the President ask for the immediate opening of a second front." According to this item, the signers of the telegram concluded, "HELEN DUCKETT, E. WASHINGTON RHODES, ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET and GOLDIE ERVIN WATSON."

The Philadelphia Independent of August 16, 1942, stated that at a meeting of the West Philadelphia Council for Action at which a second front was urged, the speakers included, KARL BERSING, E. WASHINGTON RHODES and HELEN DUCKETT. It is observed that the last two individuals named are members of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC.

b7D

On July 7, 1942, there was an argument which resulted in a minor race riot between a Negro man and woman and a white bus driver in Philadelphia. Information obtained from [redacted] and from the Daily Worker issues of July 12 and 22, 1942, reflects that the Communist Party made the most of this incident and led a publicity attack on "Coughlinite bus drivers employed by the Philadelphia Transportation Company". [redacted] stated that the NNC retained PHIL DORFMAN, [redacted] as counsel in connection with the incident. A committee composed of the following conferred with Mayor SAMUELS of Philadelphia regarding the case:

b7C

REVEREND WILLIAMSON, President of the Ministerial Alliance
JOHN PURDUE of the West Philadelphia Civic League and a member of the NNC
THEODORE BEAULDING, President, Philadelphia Council, NAACP
Mrs. GOLDIE IRVIN WATSON, President of the Philadelphia Council, NNC

It is noted that the so-called "inter-racial pilgrimage" which started in Harlem, New York, passed through the Philadelphia Field Division between August 30, 1942, and September 2, 1942. Its purpose was the protesting of racial strife. The Chairman of the "Pilgrimage" was CONRAD LYNN, a Negro

b7C,D

attorney of 817 West 125th Street, New York City. [redacted] He had also in the past been a delegate to the National Negro Congress. He stated that the National Negro Congress had refused to sponsor the "Pilgrimage" because the Communists who sponsored the Congress were afraid that the number of pacifists in the "Pilgrimage" would label it as being against the present war.

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] has advised that the Philadelphia group of the NNC has been meeting at the Negro YWCA for years, but that efforts have been made recently to discourage it. These efforts at discouragement have been made particularly since 1940 when RANDOLPH resigned as National President making a statement regarding the Communist control of the Congress. [redacted] stated that no mass meetings have been permitted recently, but that the Philadelphia Council holds small community meetings at the YWCA.

b7D

Seven copies of the National Negro News published by the national organization of the NNC in New York City were furnished to this office by [redacted] and are being maintained in the Philadelphia file in this case. These issues were published during July, August, September and October, 1942. No effort is being made herein to report the items contained in these issues, in detail, as it is believed that a more complete set would be obtainable by the New York Office. It is noted that these issues are mainly concerned with the Anti-Poll Tax and the Anti-Lynching Bill and also urge the local councils of the NNC to hold "win the war" rallies. The issues also contain protests against the Dies Committee.

b7D

b7C,D

[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that he recalled at the time the National Negro Congress was organized in Philadelphia, REVEREND EDWIN L. CUNNINGHAM was Chairman of the Church Committee of the Philadelphia Council. He recalled that CUNNINGHAM had first been approached in this connection by ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, the then president of the Philadelphia Council, NNC. FAUSET thought that CUNNINGHAM would be a desirable asset because of his youth. Reverend CUNNINGHAM did not function well, however, because the NNC was strongly influenced by Communists. As a result, [redacted] CUNNINGHAM lost the position of Church Chairman at the end of the year.

b7C,D

[redacted] on July 22, 1942, advised Agent [redacted] that Mrs. GOLDIE ERWIN WATSON, who is a teacher in the Marshall Washington School in Philadelphia, is still President of the Philadelphia Council of the NNC. [redacted] said that at the present time, the NNC has very little following in Philadelphia. As an example, to confirm this statement, he stated that Reverend CUNNINGHAM had been active in the membership drive of the NAACP in the spring of 1942, which drive enrolled only about 400 Negroes in Philadelphia out of a total Negro population of more than a quarter of a million. Reverend

CUNNINGHAM spoke on one occasion in his church on behalf of the NAACP and obtained 60 members. At the same time, Reverend CUNNINGHAM had permitted an organizer for the NNC to speak and that organizer had obtained no members at all for the NNC.

b7D

[redacted] said he believes the Communists strongly influence the NNC. He suspects that GOLDIE KEVIN WATSON, President of the Philadelphia Council, and ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET, the first president of the Philadelphia Council, are Communists, and recalled that they both proclaimed themselves as all out for United States participation in the war effort as soon as Russia was invaded.

b7C,D

[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that in his opinion the Communist Party has taken over the NNC "lock, stock and barrel".

b7C

In reference report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New Orleans on January 29, 1941, it is stated that STERLING ROCHESTER, a Negro, believed to be from Philadelphia, is working in the South in connection with Negro activities. The files of this office reflect that a Negro sheet, not dated, put out by the Communist Party in Philadelphia, states that the following were candidates of the Communist Party for Magistrate in Philadelphia:

b7C

CARL REEVE THOMAS NABRIED JOSEPH DOUGHER STERLING ROCHESTER

and NORRIS WOOD.

b7D

[redacted]

b7C
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PHILADELPHIA FILE NO. 100-869

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION

AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Will follow and report the present activities of the National Negro Congress in the Philadelphia territory.

50 (2-7-79)

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, N. Y.

FILE No. 100-349

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA	5/12/43	5/3/43	[redacted] b7c

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY-C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: 710 Standard Building, Atlanta, Georgia, is the address of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Inc. No indication of Communist infiltration or control of this organization.

R U C

b7c

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 4/13/43 at Norfolk, Virginia.

DETAILS: A review of the case entitled "COMMISSION ON INTERRACIAL COOPERATION; INTERNAL SECURITY-C," in which Jackson is origin, reveals that 710 Standard Building, Atlanta, Georgia, is the Atlanta address of that organization.

This review further reveals that considerable investigation has been conducted concerning the activities of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and that no information has been developed which would indicate that there was any degree of Communist infiltration or Communist control of this organization.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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Los Angeles, California
May 1, 1943

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RH ON 4/27/79

CONFIDENTIAL

15960

MEMORANDUM: Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY R (CP)
QUARTERLY REPORT, May 1, 1943

LOS ANGELES HEADQUARTERS: 927 South Berendo Avenue, Los Angeles, California, telephone: FItzroy 5005 (residence address of CHARLES E. PEARL, President).

LOS ANGELES LEADERSHIP:

President:	CHARLES E. PEARL
Vice-President:	MARY A. TROY
Executive Secretary:	A. T. PATRICK
Corresponding Sec. & Treas.:	ALBERT T. COLLINS

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD:

P. C. PARKS	REV. T. F. JONES
ARLENA GORDON	CLAUDIUS TROY
JOHN OWENS	H. A. POLLARD
JESSIE E. TERRY	OWEN L. KNOX
F. B. GATES	J. W. FREEMAN
SIDNEY MOORE	ANNA MARCH
A. D. McMURRAY	ZERLEASE SHAMBERGER

AIMS AND PURPOSES: EDWARD E. STRONG, National Secretary, National Negro Congress, announced in February 1943 the following ten point victory legislative program of the National Negro Congress for 1943. The text of this program is as follows:

EX-145 RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7725-306

"1. Support of the win-the-war policies of the Administration. The National Negro Congress pledges its strength and resources towards the full mobilization of 15 million Negro Americans to back the win-the-war domestic and foreign policies of President Roosevelt as indispensable for the victory of our Nation over fascist aggression and for the realization of full citizenship rights for all minority groups.

"2. Repeal of the Poll-Tax. With the key Congressional Committees headed and dominated by Poll-Tax Congressmen, a primary issue confronting all win-the-war forces in the nation today is the immediate repeal of the poll tax laws which prevent 10 million people in the South from voting.

"3. Centralized war economy. The NNC joins the organized labor movement in full support of the Pepper-Kelgore Bill, and further calls for:

"a. Maximum use of all available manpower.

25 MAY 20

"b. National child-care program.

"c. Adequate schools and equalization of teachers' salaries.

"d. Food for Victory Program.

"We call for the more rapid extension of the policies of the Farm Security Administration (which provide for loans and other forms of assistance) to allow sharecroppers, tenant farmers and the small farm owner to make their maximum contribution to the Food for Victory program.

"We oppose present efforts of the spokesmen of monopoly farm owners to sabotage the work of the Farm Security Administration as a part of the anti-war conspiracy of the reactionary forces at work in Congress in the Department of Agriculture.

"7. Labor. One of the strongest forces in support of freedom and opportunity for all people and therefore one of the strongest allies of the Negro people is the organized labor movement in this country. In order to effectively mobilize the American people for victory in the war and full citizenship rights, labor's rights must be safeguarded through:

"a. Preservation of the 40 hour week.

"b. Full power and authority to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

"c. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

"d. Opposition to the Dies Committee, the Hobbs Bill and all other fascist anti-labor legislation.

"8. Taxation. The NNC supports a just and equitable program of taxation which is based upon ability to pay.

"9. Unequivocal enforcement of the 13, 14, 15th Amendments to the Constitution. We call for stringent enforcement of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes and demand that the Department of Justice take necessary action to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan, the White Supremacists and other fascists movements.

"10. Full and Equal Participation of the Negro People in all phases of the war effort. We call for adequate representation of Negroes in executive positions in all Federal government agencies which is designed to destroy protective social legislation for women."

61-6728-306

QUARTERLY REPORT, May 1, 1943

ACTIVITIES: Little activity on the part of the National Negro Congress has been observed in recent months, due to the fact that the Negro Victory Committee, a local organization, has more or less taken over the work of the National Negro Congress. Of interest, however, was a visit to Los Angeles by Dr. MAX YERGAN, National President of the National Negro Congress, during the first week in March, 1943. At that time, YERGAN contacted a number of individuals in the Negro community in Los Angeles, and was entertained at a reception at the home of SHERIDAN GIBNEY, former President of the Screen Writers Guild. While YERGAN was in Los Angeles, it was learned that the National Negro Congress contemplates a West Coast regional conference, to be held in a West Coast city, the latter part of June, 1943, to discuss the problems of war and the Negro people.

MEMBERSHIP: Los Angeles membership in this organization is believed to be approximately twenty-five people.

MH:MEC
5 Bureau
1 100-1752
1 100-3168

Department
Washington, D. C.

Detroit, Michigan
May 24, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

According to information received by the Detroit Office, the Mid-West Conference of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS will be held in Detroit on May 29 and 30, 1943.

The Detroit Office is making arrangements to provide for coverage of this meeting, and the Bureau will be notified of the results thereof.

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas

JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

LBL:CLD
100-1049

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK DETROIT FILE No. 100-1049

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
DETROIT, MICHIGAN	5/26/43	5/11-13/43	[redacted] 67 INT

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[redacted] related that NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS was outgrowth of LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS and of NATIONAL NEGRO LABOR CONGRESS which were organized by EARL BROWDER, JAMES FORD and other Communists for purpose of fomenting a revolution in the United States. At second Michigan State Conference of NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS held in Detroit, March 8-9, 1941, speakers urged negroes to participate in labor unions, and discussed better housing, jobs for negroes, desired legislation. Report read in United States Congress by Representative TENEROWICZ alleged NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and other allegedly Communist groups were responsible for racial disturbance at Sojourner Truth Housing Project in Detroit in spring of 1942. Detroit Chapter of NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS conducted membership drive in August, 1942, but apparently has remained largely dormant since that date. Local officers and meeting place, as furnished by [redacted] set out. GEORGE B. MURPHY, Jr., national administrative secretary, NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, spoke in Detroit, November 29, 1942. [redacted] Two representatives from Detroit took part in emergency session, National Executive Board, NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, February 21, 1943.

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DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 8/15/89

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JUN 1 6 1943

(Detroit File No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C. LE BRON SIMMONS, president of Detroit Chapter, is listed as member of the National Executive Board of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS. [redacted]

b7D

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 26, 1941 at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

b7C

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 6, 1941 at Detroit, Michigan.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 15, 1943 at New York City.

DETAILS: AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

[redacted]

b7D

The NATIONAL NEGRO LABOR CONGRESS was organized in 1928 under the direction of the Sixth World Congress of the Communist International at Moscow, Russia. The Detroit Chapter of this group was set up in 1929 at Ferry Hall on Ferry Street in Detroit. This group did not progress according to expectations, however, and in 1930 a Communist Committee composed of EARL BROWDER, [redacted] JAMES FORD, [redacted] and other prominent Communists met in St. Louis, Missouri and laid the foundation of a more far-reaching organization to be called "The LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS". [redacted] was given the job of organizing the Detroit area. Headquarters of this group was established in New York City and branches were set up in major cities of the United States.

b7C

The foremost purpose of the LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS was to divide the United States into two geographical districts, the industrial and the non-industrial. The purpose that the LEAGUE of STRUGGLE was to play in this scheme was to organize the negroes in the non-industrial south into one solid group which would then be combined with the industrial group in the north and east in order to split the United States into at least two sections and precipitate a revolution by pitting the Communist organized groups

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

against the unorganized groups. As an aid in accomplishing this purpose it was expected that the LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE would create a separate negro State composed of the majority of negroes in the United States, which State would actively assist the Communist Party in forcibly overthrowing the government. It was planned that the League would organize the farmers in the south, would abolish the poll tax, would distribute propaganda, would fight discrimination and segregation and would raise as much turmoil as was possible in asking for justice for negroes in the south.

[redacted] LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE flourished in Detroit in the years 1930-1932, apparently converting five thousand negroes to the movement. The largest group which existed in Detroit at one time consisted of approximately two thousand members. WILLIAM NOWELL acted as president and JOSEPH BILLUPS as secretary. Other individuals who were active in it were FRANK SYKES, CHRISTOPHER ALSTON, JOHNNY MacADOO, FELIX MAISE, JAMES ANDERSON, MATTIE HENDERSON, RIFKA MAISENBERG, PAUL KIRK and LONNIE WILLIAMS. Of these individuals it may be noted that all are negroes with the exception of RIFKA MAISENBERG, who is Jewish. b7D

[redacted] was temporarily absent from the leadership of the group [redacted] in 1932-1933. During his absence the activities of the group dwindled a great deal. [redacted] demanded the abolition of the LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE because it was easily spotted as a Communist group and for that reason suffered a bad reputation. [redacted] it was decided by the American Communists and by their Russian Communist advisers to organize a new type of front organization for negroes and draw them into "a people's front". By a "people's front" was meant an underground group with apparently no Communist Party affiliations led by professional men who secretly were members of the Communist Party. b2D

Therefore at the instigation of BROWDER and the same nuclei which had formed the LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE the League was converted into the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS which exists today.

[redacted] advised that the program of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS is today following the "Trojan Horse Policy", a standard Communist Party method of operation. This policy means simply that the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS supports the principals of popular groups and distributes Communist propaganda among an unwitting populace in the guise of this propaganda's being social reforms with no Communist Party connections. b7D

[redacted] As a verification of the information given by [redacted] it may be noted that the "Daily Record" of June 5, 1936 carried an article "Major Immediate Issues Discussed in June b7D

'Communist'" written by A. MARKOFF. This article is merely a review of the material appearing in the June, 1936 issue of the magazine "The Communist". One portion of this article is quoted as follows:

> "JAMES W. FORD in his contribution, 'Build the National Negro Congress Movement,' has given us an excellent analysis of the need of this movement. He shows how the Negro Congress is a further development, an outgrowth of the attempts made in former years with the American Negro Labor Congress and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. Ford discusses the positive and negative features of the A.N.L.C. and the L.S.N.R. The positive features of those organizations, namely, the attempt to build a mass united front movement for the struggle for equal rights for the Negro masses, paved the way for a really broad united front movement, the present National Negro Congress. The negative features of the former organizations, Comrade Ford tells us, were the sectarian tendencies which we have succeeded in eliminating to a great extent. Our speakers, instructors in schools, etc., should make use of the material in Comrade Ford's article."

The "Daily Record" for July 6, 1938 also carried an article discussing the state conference of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS which was held in Detroit, Michigan on July 4, 1938. Participants in this conference, it is said, were JOHN P. DAVIS, national executive secretary of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and JAMES FORD, member of the national executive board of the Communist Party. The purpose of the conference, it was said, was to lay the ground for the defeat of the "reactionary" candidates in the 1938 election. The conference, it was said, unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the present Neutrality Act, and calling for displacement of the present Isolationist policy of the United States and urged the lifting of the Spanish embargo. Another resolution condemned governmental investigations of radical activities, while another resolution was passed on housing discrimination, unemployment and relief. A committee was authorized to raise funds for bringing CANNUT FRANKSON, who was recently wounded in Spain, back to the United States.

[redacted] furnished this office on May 1, 1942 with a photostatic copy of a leaflet which he had obtained [redacted] This leaflet is being set out as follows: b7D

"TASKS OF THE COMMUNIST
units, branches and sections.
IN RALLYING SUPPORT FOR THE
DETROIT AND THE MICHIGAN NEGRO CONGRESS

Special supplement issued
June 13, 1938 by the District
Negro Commission
(Address all communications to
to M. C. Work, chmn, or
Clarence Bradley, Sec.)

(Detroit File No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"Introduction.

"The Michigan Negro Congress is an affiliated organization. In Detroit it meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8 P.M. at Brewster on Brewster near Hastings.

"The headquarters of the Congress is at 585 Gratiot, tel. Ca. 4558. City Chairman and National Board member, Atty. Lebrun Simmons, State Chairman, T. T. Jones, President of the Postal Workers' Alliance.

"The Communist Party is affiliated to the Michigan Negro Congress. Each Party member has the responsibility, the duty to make every available contribution to the success of this great movement of the Negro people and their allies.

"PRESENT AIMS OF THE CONGRESS

"1. To get as many affiliations as possible from Negro organizations and from organizations that subscribe to a program of 'No Discrimination toward Negroes' (unions, churches, social, civic, fraternal organizations). All questions of affiliations or co-operation of trade unions must be taken up with the 'Labor Department' an autonomous affiliate of the Congress.

"2. To mobilize all possible support for the Midwest Regional Conference RO CONGRESS which convenes in ~~Detroit~~ Cleveland, Sept. 1938. This requires a minimum of $3,000.00, housing for 2000 delegates and co-operation of leaders of important organizations.

"3. To secure a minimum of 2000 SPONSORS in the city of Detroit and an additional 1000 SPONSORS throughout the rest of the state..

The Congress does not accept individual membership, as membership if fororganizations and by affiliation. It does, however, accept SPONSORS, who purchase a SPONSORS' BADGE and give their services in carrying out the aims, program and campaigns of the Congress. SPONSORS have no vote (as sponsors) in the Congress meetings.

BRONZE SPONSORS' BADGES		.....cost 50¢	apiece.
SILVER	"	" 1.00	"
GOLD	"	" 2.50	".

"4. To sell 2,000 copies of 'OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS, SECOND NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS' which was held in Philadelphia last October (1937).

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(Detroit File No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"It contains statements and speeches by A. Philip Randolph, National President of the NNC and outstanding Negro leader in the F. of L, President of the Int'l Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John P. Davis, Nat'l Secretary; by James W. Ford, outstanding Communist leader and Negro candidate for Vice-President of the U.S. in 1932 and 1936; by Max Yergan, Director of the Int'l Committee on African Affairs; by Thomas Kennedy, Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania and Sec.-Treasurer UMWA; by Philip Murray, Norman Thomas, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins, Brown and others. A special section is devoted to problems of youth. It contains greetings from a number of leading people, outstanding among whom as President F. D. Roosevelt and John L. Lewis. It sells for 25¢ per copy. Get them at the Modern Bookshop, 2810 Clifford.

"T A S K S .

"1. Of SPONSORS - to attend the meetings of the Congress and participate where you find it possible. Where no Congress exists (out-state) SPONSORS should participate in forming such Councils.

"Sponsors' groups can be formed around any immediate issue of struggle - a case of discrimination, campaign for jobs, promotion for Negroes, for lower rents or better housing. When your group tends to become stable get in touch with Mr. T. T. Jones, 585 Gratiot, State Director and make plans for calling a meeting at which you will set up a Council, elect officers and participate in the regular activities of the Michigan Negro Congress.

"2. The Negro Committees in the units (shop and industrial) which are to be set up in accordance with the decisions of the recent State Convention, IN ADDITION TO ORGANIZING STRUGGLES FOR JOBS, PROMOTION AND APPRENTICESHIPS for NEGROES should see that the union in the factory or shop is affiliated and delegates elected to the Congress. Special efforts must be made to get delegates from the Negro clubs in the plants.

"3. The Section Negro Commissions, in addition to their general supervision of work among Negroes in the Section must check up on the organization of the shop and industrial unit Negro Committees and stimulate them into activity, helping them to discover and raise correctly ISSUES OF STRUGGLE IN THE SHOPS.

"They should conduct surveys in the Section territory to learn of the existence, the names and addresses of all Negro organizations in the Territory. All contacts and such detailed information should be turned over AT ONCE to the District Negro Commission.

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"The Section Negro Commission is responsible to organize and keep a record of comrades sent to the office of the Congress to do work; to do clerical work, to sell SPONSORS' badges, to visit organizations or contacgs for affiliations.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] furnished this office on November 25, 1941 with a photostatic copy of the "Call to the Second Michigan Conference of the National Negro Congress", which was held Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9, 1941, at the Lucy Thurman YWCA at St. Antoine and Elizabeth Streets, Detroit, Michigan.

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In addition to the national officers of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, sponsors from the state of Michigan were: Senator STANLEY NOWAK, Reverend CHARLES A. HILL, Seantor CHARLES C. DIGGS, Reverend JOHN M. MILES, Reverend HORACE A. WHITE, ROSA GRAGG, JEANETTA WELCH, SAMUEL FANROY, LUKE FENNELL, ALMA STRONG, LEONARD TROUTMAN, MAUDE CAREY, HODGES MASON, HARRY ROTHENBURG, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ALSTON, JAMES WALKER, EDWARD TOLAN, JOSEPH SCHIFFER, Reverend OWEN A. KNOX, Attorney ROBERT J. EVANS, Attorney C. LeBRON SIMMONS, JOHN CONYERS, ARTHUR PERRY, JOSEPH COLE.

Reverend CHARLES A. HILL was said to be the temporary chairman, COLEMAN YOUNG was temporary secretary and Miss ELIZABETH L. GULLEY was temporary treasurer. The office setup for the conference was said to be at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 514 Garfield Street. It may be stated that this church is pastored by the Reverend HORACE A. WHITE.

Points on the agenda were said to be as follows:

"1. Housing conditions.
"2. Lynching and police brutality against negroes.
"3. The government must get out of war and keep the country at peace.
"4. Negroes and whites must unify their efforts to bring about the above conditions."

[redacted] the all-day b7D session of the conference on March 8, 1941. EDWARD SWAN, who at that time was an employee of the National Youth Administration, addressed the group on how to get more negroes into the NYA projects and also discussed the good that the NYA is doing for negroes.

BRIDGET POULSON, [redacted] LEAGUE and representative of the GREATER DETROIT YOUTH ASSEMBLY, also spoke on NYA projects, saying that negroes and whites must work together to make the National Youth Administration mean as much as possible to millions of youth in America. b7C

EDWARD TOLAN spoke for a brief moment, implying that negro people were discriminated against in the NYA. JOHN SIMMONS advocated immediate action to bring about better conditions for negroes in Michigan. Michigan State Senator STANLEY NOWAK made a talk on "Needed Legislation", saying that there are a lot of things to accomplish for the workers, but they will have to be patient and fight on. He discussed legislation and contracts to set up seniority "for all workers, white or black". Reverend HORACE A. WHITE urged all negroes to join up with trade unions. GENEVA BEST then gave a short talk on housing, Michigan slum conditions and some needed change of legislation here in Michigan to provide better housing for negroes.

[redacted] the afternoon session was merely a repition as all individuals seemed to be saying the same things over, in different ways or centered around "youth, jobs, housing and legislation". b7D

[redacted] Attendance started with about sixty persons and gradually built up until there were about one hundred twenty-five persons. Approximately seventy-five per cent of the audience was colored. Among those present were the following: C. LeBRON SIMMONS (president of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS [redacted] b7C

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ALSTON [redacted] JOHN SIMMONS, negro, brother of C. LeBRON SIMMONS, active participant in the DETROIT YOUTH ASSEMBLY,

b2c

alleged Communist front); CASS BAILEY [redacted]); SAMUEL FANROY (negro, member of the executive board of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS); Reverend JOHN M. MILES [redacted]); Mr. SHELTON (negro); CLIFFORD MOORE (negro, business agent of Local 663, A.F. L); ROBERT REED [redacted] Spanish Civil War veteran, [redacted], white man); SAM SWEET (member of the Michigan State Executive Committee of the Communist Party, [redacted]); JOHN CONYERS (negro, member of the executive board of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, [redacted]); LUKE FENNELL (negro, member of the executive board of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS); ELMER JOHNSON [redacted] b7c

[redacted] BRIDGET POULSON [redacted] ANNA SHORE (white girl, executive secretary of the DETROIT PEACE MOBILIZATION at that time); LEON HATES (negro); THOMAS EDWARD TOLAN [redacted]; Mrs. WALTER HARDIN; WALTER HARDIN [redacted]

Mr. _____ CLARK (negro, resident of Flint, Michigan, member of UAW Local 599); JOHNSON BUCHANAN (negro, resident of Flint, Michigan, member of UAW Local 599); WILBUR SHINN (white men, resident of Flint, Michigan); Miss ____ SHINN (white girl, sister of WILBUR SHINN); one unidentified white man from Flint, Michigan who is state secretary of the WORKERS ALLIANCE (probably [redacted]; Mr. _____ ANSON (negro); Mr. _____ BUTLER (white man, member of Packard UAW Local 190); W. B. MORGAN (negro, member of Ford Local 600 UAW-CIO); FRANK McDONALD [redacted], president of Lodge 724 IWO, Detroit File No. 100-1838); COLEMAN YOUNG (negro, former executive secretary of Detroit Chapter NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, [redacted]; Mrs. ELIZABETH GULLEY (negress); OLIVER STONE; Mrs. _____ WALLACE (white woman, member of Ladies Auxiliary, Chrysler Local 7, UAW-CIO); Mr. _____ BAKER; Dr. E. G. RODDIE [redacted], dentist, [redacted] R. DAVIS (probably [redacted] negro); KIRBY JONES (negro); PAUL KIRK (negro, [redacted]; Mr. _____ JOHNSON (negro); LEROY G. WHITE (negro, editor of the negro newspaper "Hamtramck - North Detroit Echo"); RAY BASCOM (white man, [redacted]. b7c

[redacted] related that SAMUEL FANROY was the first speaker. He praised PHILLIP MURRAY and discussed labor organizations in

general and the organization of the Ford Motor Company by the CIO in particular. He urged negroes to join the CIO and aid in organizing the Ford Motor Company.

[redacted] Reverend JOHN MILES was the next speaker. He too discussed efforts to organize "The Ford empire", attacking HARRY BENNETT of the Ford Service Department and the other employees of the Ford Motor Company whom he alleged were opposed to organization.

CLIFFORD MOORE spoke also on unionization as did SAM SWEET and JOHN CONYERS. LEON BATES, EDWARD TOLAN, MRS. WALTER HARDIN, Mr. CLARK, JOHNSON BUCHANAN, WILBUR SHINN and a Mr. ANSON were introduced but there was no time for them to speak. MERRELL WORK and Mr. BUTLER talked briefly of the progress the negro was making in labor unions in Detroit, specifically with reference to seniority rights.

[redacted] the credentials committee reported the names of the various organizations who had accredited delegates at this convention. The Communist Party had two delegates; the YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE, one; STANLEY NOWAK FEDERATION, one; the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION, two; and various CIO and A.F.L. locals were also represented.

The organizing committee in their report recommended that all negroes join the CIO rather than the A.F. of L. They also reported that the following officers had been elected for the coming year:

President - Reverend CHARLES A. HILL
Executive Secretary - COLEMAN YOUNG
Treasurer - Mrs. ELIZABETH GULLEY
Executive Board -

[redacted] was unable to get the names of all the members, but stated the following were among the members thereof: OLIVER STONE, SAM SWEET, Mrs. WALTER HARDIN, EDWARD TOLAN, Reverend JOHN M. MILES, Mrs. WALLACE, Mr. BAKER, Dr. E. G. BODDIE, FRANK McDONALD, R. DAVIS, KIRBY JONES, Mrs. MATUSZ of Packard Auxiliary.

The next thing on the program, [redacted] was a report of the jobs committee, which was made by PAUL KIRK. Included in this report were accusations of negro and white intimidations at the Ford Motor Company.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ALSTON made a report of the resolution committee. The following resolutions were adopted:

"1. With reference to northwestern Detroit where race riots existed last year.

"2. To back the UAW-CIO drive at the Ford Motor Company.

"3. For better housing conditions and housing laws.

"4. Advocating passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill.

"5. Commended Archbishop MOONEY for setting up trade schools or labor schools.

"6. All civil rights (This resolution protested such denial of civil rights as were manifested by the Dies Committee, the Bridges Deportation Hearing, the Browder case and the alleged persecution of religious groups).

"7. Endorsing the American Peace Mobilization and recommending that one hundred delegates be sent to the "American People's Meeting" at New York City, April 5-7, 1941.

"8. Oppressive legislation (Recommendation was made that these bills be fought with renewed vigor and that they be defeated. (It may be mentioned that a model anti-sabotage bill was pending before the Michigan Legislature in May, 1941. It gave the employers power to petition authorities to close streets and highways adjoining their plants and thus prevent workers from getting near the plant. Other clauses safeguarded the rights of employees to work and to bargain collectively. It was vigorously attacked by the Communist Party and their fronts because among other things it interfered with their distributing literature to the workers and obviously safeguarded members from riots. This bill was said to have been passed in the legislatures of several other states.)

"9. Endorsement of the Workers Alliance Bill in congress.

"10. Resolution of thanks to the YWCA and others who helped with the conference.

"11. Resolution on JAMES ZEIGLER (ZEIGLER was accused of rape on a white girl. Resolution stated that it was believed ZEIGLER was framed and demanded that he be released).

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[redacted] related that literature of the American Peace Mobilization and of the Civil Rights Federation was handed out freely and announcement was made that the Detroit Peace Mobilization is sponsoring a meeting to be held at Carpathia Hall, Detroit, on the evening of March 14th with MICHAEL QUILL as chief speaker. [redacted] stated that the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

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[redacted] attendance of the audience at the Young Women's Institute held at the Tuller Hotel in Detroit on June 8, 1941, which was sponsored by the DETROIT YOUTH ASSEMBLY, alleged Communist front. The following individuals registered as representing the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS at that institute:

JAMES ANDERSON, JERRY AURINGER, HELEN AYERS, AUDRIE BOULDING, VERA CARTER, M. A. FERGUSON, MERRIAM LEE, ALMA ERNESTINE STRONG, MARTHA TOLAN, MATTIE WOODSON and MERRELL C. WORK.

[redacted]

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[redacted] a slip of paper which had at one time had been a portion of the files of the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION, alleged Communist front. The notation which was typed on this slip of paper apparently indicates inter-relation between the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION and the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS. This notation is set forth as follows:

"Housing - discrimination against Negro, Jewish, foreign born people

"contact with NNC 7/26 —meeting called for 7 p.m. Tues. 7/29, at NNC office.

"angles: participation of HOLC in enforcing restrictive covenants
intensification of problem as a result of defense overcrowding
statistics of social effects of housing discrimination
recent Supreme Court decision
tie-in with election campaign "

[redacted] was unable to give the exact year to which the material was applicable.

[redacted] furnished to this office on October 24, 1941 a copy of a letter dated July 31, 1941, directed to "CHRISTOPHER ALSON, NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, Detroit, Michigan" and signed

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"BRIDGET POULSON, administrative secretary of the DETROIT YOUTH ASSEMBLY". (It may be noted that the assembly was an alleged Communist front). The body of this letter is set out as follows:

"At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Detroit Youth Assembly, it was agreed to ask your organization to let us have written information regarding your work on discrimination in job placement.

"The Youth Assembly is on record against discrimination of any kind, and has as you are aware, taken several actions in this regard. We would like to give your group our active support on this matter, and so if you will let us know what your plans are, and how you feel we can cooperate, we shall take up the question in our Executive Board meeting. It would be very useful if you could come yourself to this next meeting, the date of which is not settled yet.

"Looking forward to hearing from you soon, I am

On November 25, 1941 Special Agent [redacted] of the Detroit Field Office interviewed [redacted] concerning the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS. [redacted] gave information concerning the organization as follows: b7c, D

The Detroit Council of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS was created about 1935. The organization is active in Detroit today. Its headquarters and principal meeting place are located at 585 Gratiot Street, Detroit, although the homes of loyal members are also used for meetings. The principal officers of the Detroit Council are as follows: President, Reverend CHARLES A. HILL; ex-President, C. LeBRON SIMMONS. These officers are assisted in formulating the policies of the organization by an executive board.

The Detroit Council of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS is primarily civic in its purpose and deals largely with matters of racial discrimination in an effort to bring about the abolition of racial prejudice. Our lines of endeavor include industrial, political, and social walks of life.

The Detroit Council of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS has an active membership of approximately one hundred individuals although it appears to have an additional two hundred or more sympathizers. It is financed principally by the dues and contributions of its members. [redacted]

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(Detroit File No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ b7c, D

Special Agent [redacted] obtained on January 25, 1942 from [redacted] a three-page mimeographed outline which is set forth as follows:

"OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION
ON ORGANIZING THE STRUGGLES OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE
****

"I. NEGRO AND WHITE UNITY

A. Negro people as an ally of the working class in struggle for socialism.

B. Working class movement as a powerful support to the Negro liberation movement.

C. Labor movement now starting to take lead in struggle for Negro rights. This fight for rights of Negro people involving new and powerful forces and not just confined to Communists and "left" forces.

1 - Great advance in Negro and white unity expressed in recent Ford strike, when Ford Co. failed to use Negroes to break strike. This largely due to position of CIO on equal rights for Negroes and leading role of Negroes in CIO.

2 - Outstanding victory for Negro rights in N.Y. city in winning of numerous jobs for Negroes in bus system, accomplished thru united action of Transport Workers Union, Nat. Negro Congress, progressives.

3 - A number of examples among the auto workers:

a - Kelsey-Hayes. Persistent fight of progressive elements won elimination of a jim-crow seniority set-up in Kelsey.
b - Addes' speech for full rights for Negro workers at GM rank and file conference.

4 - Movement in the South for the right to vote includes both Negro and white organizations. Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill has support from CIO, AF of L, LNPL, Negro organizations, Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

5 - Wide movement for the passage of the anti-lynch bill, including labor.

6 - Stand of CIO on equal rights for Negroes, as expressed by JOHN L. LEWIS.

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(detroit file No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"II. WHAT ARE THE BURNING ISSUES AROUND WHICH TO DEVELOP UNITY AND WIN THE NEGRO PEOPLE FOR STRUGGLE TO GET OUT AND STAY OUT OF THE WAR?

"Militant moods of struggle prevail among the Negro people because of intensified oppression resulting from war program of American imperialism.

A. Exclusion of Negro workers from jobs in 'defense' industries. Struggle for equal opportunities for jobs for Negroes. 'Desire of Negro people for jobs is a major consideration in our work.'

B. Discrimination against Negroes increasing as expressed by discrimination against Negroes in armed forces.

1 - Discrimination against Negro draftees. Negroes in army on jim-crow basis. In Navy Negroes can only rise to mess boys. Jim-crowism in the Air Corps.

C. For adequate relief. Fight against proposed drastic cut in Genesee county welfare budget for coming year.

D. Negroes jim-crowed into slum houses. Original government housing program retarded in drive toward war. For adequate, human housing.

E. Barring of Negro youth from equal opportunity for training under Federal Vocational training programs. For equal opportunity for Negro youth in Federal training programs.

F. For proper medical facilities for Negroes. Hospitals and clinics notoriously lacking in Negro communities.

G. For repeal of vicious poll tax in 8 southern states which denies 4 million Negroes and 6 million whites right to vote

H. For enactment of anti-lynching bill.

"III. The Role of Social Democracy is the Betrayal of These Negro Rights

A. Social-Democratic 'leaders' of the Negroes, Walter White and A. Phillip Randolph apologize for oppression of Negro people by American imperialism, surrender the fight against this oppression and try to mislead Negroes to die for so-called 'war for democracy.'

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"B. Role of social-democracy in labor movement is to support and bolster corporations' policy of discrimination against Negroes. Examples: Kelsey-Hayes; Dodge; Chevrolet in Detroit; Briggs; Reuther in National GM Council.

C. Social-democrats and reformists among Negroes seek to place main responsibility for discrimination against labor movement to prevent unity of Negro and white workers. Reformists - White, etc. adopt tactic of 'leftism', a 'militent' stand against discrimination, in order to retain leadership over Negro people to bring them into the Roosevelt war camp.

D. This enemy idealogy of Wall Street must be combatted in order to win Negro people in defense of their rights and peace.

"IV. Willingness of Negroes to Struggle Against Discrimination and Oppression over Heeds of Social Democrats and Reformists.

National Negro Congress is playing a leading role in these struggles.

A. Strike of Negro Ford workers for union standards.

B. Struggle of young Negro sailors in navy who protested against being .... to messmen.

C. Registration of Negroes in Miami, Fla. and other poll tax states in defiance of the Ku Klux rule of South.

D. Successful struggle for the release of John Williams in Brooklyn

E. Fight of evicted sharecroppers in Missouri

F. Fight to obtain jobs for Negroes in aircraft industries.

"V The Party and the Struggle of the Negro Masses.

A. The main task of Communists and progressives is to fight for the unity of Negro and white workers, by:

1. Being in the forefront in the struggle especially among the white workers for the rights of Negroes and against white chauvinism.

a - Where Negroes are not hired in shops we must recognize this as a problem which concerns all workers in that shop

"b - Must educate white workers by raising issues among them and getting them to fight for the rights of the Negroes.
c - Must take lead in fight for full rights of Negroes within the unions and to advance them into the leadership.
d - Must take lead in fighting against chauvinism wherever it expresses itself.

2. Unite the Negro people in a broad struggle against war, discrimination and for national liberation.

3. Task of Negro workers, particularly Communists is to carry on systematic educational work among Negro people to bring them closer to the working class and progressive movement.

4. Special attention to recruitment of Negro workers to Party and their advance into leadership of the Party.

"VI. Immediate Tasks

A. Must assist in the building and broadening of the National Negro Congress locally as the united organization of the Negro people. To be done on basis of most concrete methods of organization and struggle in the communities on basis of issue that are of special meaning to Negro people themselves.

B. Proper utilization of Daily and Sunday Worker in order to reach Negro people and convince them of correctness of Communist policy. Concentration upon factories in which there are large number of Negroes.

"Reading Material:

"Pamphlet entitled - Negroes and National Defense - by C. LeBron Simmons
" " " - Henry Ford and the Negro People - by C. Alston "

C. LeBRON SIMMONS, above-mentioned, it may be noted is president of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS.

The Detroit Office is in receipt of a pamphlet from the United States Government Printing Office, which pamphlet is a reproduction of a speech delivered in the United States House of Representatives on February 27, 1942 by Honorable RUDOLPH G. TENEROWICZ, representative from Michigan. The title of this speech was "A Factual Expose of the Nevada-Fenolen Defense Housing Project Controversy". A

topic of discussion in this speech was the Sojourner Truth Housing Project, which was erected in the vicinity of Nevada and Fenolen Streets in Detroit with government funds in 1941. Inasmuch as this area in which the project was located was allegedly a white area, the question arose as to whether or not negroes should be allowed to occupy homes in the project. White residents of the area protested and various negroes and negro sympathizers applied pressure on the United States Housing Commission and upon the Detroit Housing Commission to allow negroes to occupy the premises.

It may be mentioned also that as a consequence of the efforts of negroes to move in, a race riot ensued in the area which lasted for two days and in which many people were injured.

Representative TENEROWICZ in his speech mentioned above read a report dated February 24, 1942, "Received from a responsible source which covers the unscrupulous, biased, subversive actions employed by radical and negro elements to deliverately incite both negroes and whites". It was alleged in this report that, "Starting in December, 1941, and building up to a roaring crescendo by the middle of February, 1942, the Communist Party and its hundreds of affiliates and affiliated organizations began passing resolutions issuing their directives to call the necessary mobilization measure in anticipation of the possibility that the negroes of the city of Detroit will be denied the occupancy of the Sojourner Truth Housing Project". According to the report, "The District Bureau of the Communist Party of the city of Detroit held secret meetings in which a strategic plan was worked out to defeat the rightful claims of white occupants of homes located in the immediate vicinity of this housing project. At those secret meetings the Communist Party resolved to use their front organizations, which have been built up over a period of many years for just such purpose...."

"The organizations who responded to the call of the Communist Party to engineer a flood of protests have fantastic claims of a following reaching into hundred of thousands, when actually not over twenty-five people attend their meetings regularly. The organizations who were conspicuously active in behalf of the Communist Party involving the Sojourner Truth Housing Project are as follows:

"Communist Party of America (proper)
"Detroit Civil Rights Federation (Communist).
"National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (strong Communist influence)
"National Negro Congress (absolutely Communist controlled)
"Detroit Youth Assembly (Communist Party and Youth Youth Communist League controlled).

"Young Communist League (the name speaks for itself).
"Stanley Nowak New Deal Federation (Communist controlled).

"The investigator involved in this inquiry further disclosed that on January 18, 1942 the Communist Party of Michigan held its annual Lenin Memorial meeting at the Mirror Ballroom, 2940 Woodward Avenue. About one thousand Communist members attended. Patrick Toohey, their State secretary, was chairman. The meeting was opened with the singing of the Internationale, with words as follows:

"Tis the final conflict,
Let each stand in his place,
The International Soviet
Shall be the human race."

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"At this meeting COLEMAN YOUNG, [redacted] who is the executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, Detroit Chapter, was one of the speakers. His talk was devoted to the Sojourner Truth Housing Project, in which he bitterly attacked Congressman TENEROWICZ, branding him as a fifth columnist, emphasizing that the Sojourner Truth Housing Project has been stolen from the negro people. YOUNG further stated that at the same moment a protest meeting was being held at the Calvary Baptist Church, and that letters of protest were being drawn up to be sent to the mayor, governor and the common council; that a picket line was being organized to picket the offices of the Housing Commission, and that this entire program would be in full swing on the following day. At this same meeting Pat Toohey, who is the chairman of this gathering and who is the state secretary of the Communist Party in Detroit, announced that the organization has taken the initiative in this fight and that they are behind the negroes 100 per cent and will give this matter all the necessary moral and financial assistance."

[redacted] furnished this office on June 23, 1942 a copy of a mimeographed letter dated June 9, 1942, which was distributed through the contacts of the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION by [redacted] The mimeographed letter urges the recipient to attend a meeting of "youth leaders" on June 15, 1942 at the Lucy Thurman YWCA, "To consider especially the fight for integration of negro youth into the war effort through the creation of an inter-racial brigade". [redacted] stated that the purpose of the brigade was to wreck JIM CROW and Hitler at the same time; and that the meeting had been sponsored by the National Conference of Negro Youth, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Congress, The Union for Democratic Action, the Council Against Intolerance and the American Youth Congress.

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(Detroit File No. 100-1049)

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[redacted] also furnished on July 7, 1943 a mimeographed sheet, distributed by the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION, urging the recipient to attend an "emergency conference on the fifth column in Detroit plants" held June 26, 1942 at the Hotel Book-Cadillac. This conference was said to have been sponsored by the UAW-CIO Inter-racial Committee, the Urban League, the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE and the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, [redacted] who attended the meeting, however, reported the sponsorship of all organizations other than the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION was in name only since the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION completely dominated the meeting, arranged the program and schedule and furnished the speakers.

b7D

b7D

[redacted]

b7C

b7D

[redacted]

The "Michigan Chronicle" of August 1, 1942 announced that the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS was planning to launch its annual membership drive on August 16, 1942 for a duration of thirty days. Individual membership, it was said, was to be encouraged among the following groups, each of which was to have been a section with a chairman: Youth Division, MABEL LEE SMITH (president of the Frederick Douglas Branch of the YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE, [redacted]; Women's Division, LAVERTA HARVEY; Church Division, C. LEBRON SIMMONS; Trade Union Division, ORVILLE SHELTON TAPPES [redacted] General Membership, VIRGIL VANDERBURG ([redacted] executive secretary of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, [redacted]

b7C

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The article stated that VANDERBURG is to put into motion all the plans that the Detroit Chapter expects to carry out in the near future. Among these projects, it is said, are the following issues:

"1. Rent control
"2. A fair employment practice council
"3. Making the Congress heard and felt in the coming elections with special emphasis on the defeat of such disruptors of national unity as RUDOLPH TENEROWICZ

"4. Participation by the National Negro Congress in and contribution to the various "win the war conferences. "

b7D

[redacted]

The "Michigan Chronicle" of August 8, 1942 related that approximately one hundred thousand persons were expected to attend a mass meeting to be held August 13, 1942 in Cadillac Square to request the opening of a Second European Front at once. The rally, it was said, was initiated by the CIO and it is hoped that the A.F. of L. will join the CIO in sponsorship. The "Chronicle" also stated, "Among those organizations which have already agreed, through their officers, to do so (sponsor the meeting) are the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, the INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER, the AMERICAN SLAV CONGRESS and the Polish National Alliance".

The writer who attended the meeting, however, was unable to find any indication of activity of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS as such in the meeting other than its sponsorship in name only. No speaker represented the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS in any of the speeches of the day.

"The Chronicle" of August 8, 1942 also carried an article discussing the opening by the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS of its

annual membership drive on August 19, 1942. A breakfast, it was said, was planned for August 16, 1942 on Belle Isle in Detroit as a preliminary measure. Morning services, it was said, will be rendered by Reverend JOHN M. MILES (previously identified in this report) and Reverend VIRGIL VANDERBURG (previously identified). SHELTON TAPPES (previously identified) it was said, will give a report on the UAW-CIO convention, convening at that time in Chicago. "The Chronicle" also stated that a cultural program was scheduled for the afternoon of August 16, 1942 at the Federation of Women's Clubs, 5461 Brush Street. Participants who were scheduled to take part in the proceedings were said to be : ROBERT HAYDEN, Detroit poet; Mrs. OLIVER LEGRONE, OLIVER LEGRONE, sculptor, and HUGH LEE-SMITH, painter [redacted]. In addition it was stated that the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS has already gone on record as sponsoring CHARLES O. DIGGS for state senator, LeBRON SIMMONS for state legislator and GEORGE SADOWSKI for United States congressman. b7C

It may be mentioned that DIGGS is a negro, [redacted] a member of the Michigan State Senate and [redacted] SIMMONS has been previously identified in this report. SADOWSKI is presently congressman from the same district from which RUDOLPH TENEROWICZ was congressman. He was strongly supported by the Communist Party in his campaign and was elected following TENEROWICZ refusal to follow the Communist Party in the Sojourner Truth Housing Project. b7C

b7D

[redacted]

b7D

(Detroit File No. 100-1049)

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[redacted] asserted that these individuals requested [redacted] to attend a meeting on October 23, 1942 of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, which was being held at the Detroit Federation of Women's Club on Kirby and Brush Streets, Detroit. These individuals informed [redacted] that he should contact LeBRON SIMMONS, who was the president of the organization.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

(c)

It may be mentioned that SIMMONS, MABEN and ALSTON are negroes.

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[redacted] advised on November 10, 1942 that he had on the preceding day interviewed VERA CARTER, secretary of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS on a pretext. Miss CARTER gave [redacted] information concerning the Detroit Chapter as follows: President, C. LeBRON SIMMONS; executive secretary, VIRGIL VANDERBURG, 5461 Brush Street, Detroit; secretary and chairman of the social committee, VERA CARTER; headquarters, 585 Gratiot Street, Detroit; (This address it may be noted is the law office of C. LeBron SIMMONS); membership, between two hundred fifty and three hundred at the present time in Detroit alone.

b7c

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(Detroit File No. 100-1049)

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Miss CARTER related to [redacted] that there is to be a mass meeting of the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS on November 29, 1942 at three p.m. at the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Detroit, which is pastored by the Reverend WILLIAM PECK. She stated that MAX YERGAN, national president of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, is scheduled to be there as is FERDINAND SMITH, secretary of the National Maritime Union, New York City, who is scheduled to be guest speaker. At or before this meeting, she related, the Detroit Chapter of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS will announce a membership campaign.

[redacted] it is believed that the claimed membership of two hundred fifty to three hundred members was greatly exaggerated. No evidence has been found by the Detroit Field Division to substantiate this claim, but in fact information which has come to the attention of the Detroit Field Division has indicated that the Congress at the time this claim was made was dormant in its activities. b7E

[redacted] b7E

On December 4, 1942 [redacted] furnished to this office a handbill, printed, advertising the mass meeting scheduled for November 29, 1942 at the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Detroit, at which meeting, it was said, the CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR WAR JOBS and the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS would present MAX YERGAN, president of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, to further the purpose of continuing "the fight for jobs in war industries". b7D b7D

On November 24, 1942 [redacted] the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS has discarded plans which it had previously made to have two mass meetings on Sunday, November 29, 1942 and rather had decided to hold one mass meeting in conjunction with the CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR WAR JOBS at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit. This obviously changed the plans to have a meeting at the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Detroit.

[redacted] related that neither MAX YERGAN nor Ferdinand SMITH appeared at the above-mentioned mass meeting, but as a substitute GEORGE B. MURPHY, Jr., administrative secretary of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, addressed the mass meeting at b7D

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the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. The "Michigan Chronicle" of December 5, 1943 carried a large portion of the text of MURPHY's address. YERGAN, it was said, was unable to attend because of illness. MURPHY according to this report linked "the work of the Citizens Committee with a universal effort for Jews and minority groups all over the world. He stated that citizens must back the work of the Citizens Committee for War Jobs in Michigan in a much broader light than that of simply obtaining jobs for negro women in the war plants - war factories of Detroit. Detroit, he stated, is a key war industry center of the capitol of the United Nations. In order to win the war, he said, the United Nations must not only say that the manpower of the colored races in the United States were used, but must also be concerned with "the more than six hundred millions of Allies, most of them darker peoples, who are watching America".

He connected the work of the Citizens Committee with the job of winning the war, praised the Soviet soldiers at Stalingrad and stated in effect that democracy could work for colored Americans only if the Poll Tax were abolished in eight southern states and if the work of the Fair Employment Practice Committee were strengthened.

[redacted] related that he attended this meeting and that there were approximately two hundred persons in attendance. 67D

[redacted] also stated that he attended on December 19, 1942 a meeting of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS held at the Lucy Thurman YWCA at 569 East Elizabeth Street, Detroit. At this meeting he said motion pictures were shown. The first picture was on "Civilian Defense" and had been released by the Office of War Information. The next three pictures, he said, were on folk dances in Russia and had been released by the Artkino Motor Pictures, U.S.S.R. The last picture was a description of the defense of a Moscow suburban city. 67D

[redacted] 67D

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CONFIDENTIAL

b7D

[redacted]

the information obtained through this and other confidential sources it has been learned that the Communist Party has stated that the organizational responsibility for mobilized negroes and the observance of "Negro History Week" will rest upon the Citizens Committee. These sources revealed that the Communist Party in conjunction with that committee made plans and preliminary activities directed toward launching a radio broadcast, a wreath laying service, a united city-wide meeting and the utilization of the services of a speakers bureau of Communist Party members for the observance of that week.)

In connection with "Negro History Week", [redacted] there was a wide variety of pamphlet material put out by the Office of War Information, by the CIO, by the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, [redacted] these pamphlets were obtainable from the offices of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS and the CIO as well as at the Detroit (Communist) Book Store.

b7D

[redacted]

b1

(c)

b7D

b7C,D

The "Michigan Chronicle" of March 6, 1943 carried an article, stating that seventy-five members and visitors attended the emergency session of the National Executive Board meeting of the

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, held in New York City on February 21, 1943. Among the members of the Executive Board present at that meeting, the article stated, was VERA CARTER from Detroit. Included among the visitors, it was said, was SHELTON TAPPES [redacted] b7C

Other portions of the article discussed the measures which had been passed in the conference.

Attention is called to the reference report of Special Agent [redacted] in which it is set out that LeBRON SIMMONS, member of the National Executive Board of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS, was unable to attend the above meeting, but that he was represented by VERA CARTER. This information was obtained from [redacted] b7D

During the month of February, 1943 the writer interviewed the following individuals who stated that no activities of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS had come to their attention during either the months of January or February, 1943: [redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

(Detroit File No. 100-1049)

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At the EARL BROWDER rally sponsored by the Communist Party and held at the Graystone Ballroom in Detroit on May 10, 1943 PATRICK TOOHEY, [redacted] announced that the Midwest Conference of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS would be held on May 28-29, 1943 in Detroit.

b7c

It may be mentioned that it is believed that the date of the conference was set back from early June, 1943 due to the fact that the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE is also holding a conference in early June, 1943.

PENDING

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(Detroit File No. 100-1049) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DETROIT FIELD OFFICE

* At Lansing, Michigan, will check the office of the Corporation Commission for any record of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS.

* At Detroit, Michigan, will check the morgue files of the "Detroit News" for pertinent data.

* Will make the necessary arrangements to cover and report the activities of the regional conference of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS scheduled for May 29-30, 1943.

b7c

The leads set out in the reference report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 15, 1941 at Detroit, Michigan to determine the personal history and background of various alleged officers of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS are being disregarded inasmuch as existing Bureau instructions are to the effect that personal history and background of individuals should be reported in Internal Security - C cases on the particlar individual rather than in the organizational file.

A copy of this report is being designated for the information of the Grand Rapids Field Office inasmuch as District 7 of the Communist Party, which this report shows to be in close contact with the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS in Detroit, also covers a large portion of the Grand Rapids Field Division.

PENDING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Detroit File No. 100-1049)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

[redacted]

[redacted]

(c)

[redacted] Agent SAMUEL A. PATTERSON, MID, Detroit.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-3633 ICM

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK	MAY 26 1943	4/19, 29; 5/4/43	[redacted] b7C

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Eastern Seaboard conference held NYC 4/10/43 and 4/11/43. Approximately 400 delegates from 9 states attended. Abstracts of speeches made at open session and the reports from conference's committees are set out.

- P -

b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York, New York, March 15, 1943.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Norfolk, Virginia, April 13, 1943.

DETAILS: The Eastern Seaboard Conference of the National Negro Congress was held at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th Street, New York City, on April 10 and April 11, 1943.

The New York Amsterdam News, a New York negro newspaper, dated April 17, 1943 reports that the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the National Negro Congress on the "Negro and the War" took on an international character when it made an uncompromising demand for the opening of a second front in Europe. The report reflects that coming from 9 states and representing a broad section of the Trade Union Movement 400 delegates of almost every nationality in the world discussed not only problems facing the Negro people but common problems facing other oppressed groups in panel discussions held on Saturday.

The Conference, according to this news article, was opened Saturday morning at a closed session with an impassioned plea for the full participation of the Negro people in the global struggle against Fascism

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. E. Conroy SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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RECORDED & INDEXED

16 MAY 28 1943

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50 JUN 22 1943

by EDWARD STRONG, executive secretary of the Congress. It was STRONG who gave forceful talks on the Pan American Democracy, while discussion leaders were LIU LIANG-MO, of the YMCA of China, KUMAR GOSHAL, author and lecturer on India, H. P. OSBORNE, of the West Indies National Council and Mrs. ALICE H. WARE.

This article further reflects that panel discussions on "Manpower," "A People's Victory - A People's Peace," and "Democratic Rights" and "Wartime Living Standards" took place in the afternoon. With CHARLES A. COLLINS of the Hotel and Club Employees Union and FERDINAND SMITH as co-chairmen, speakers on the "Manpower" panel were JAMES J. CONROY of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, EDWARD DAWSON of the FEPC, HERMAN SMITH of the Industrial Union of Marine and Ship Workers of America, and Mrs. MABEL K. STAUPERS of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

[redacted] the following information concerning the Sunday session of the Conference:

The morning session consisted of reports by the chairmen of the panel discussion groups and reports from the Committees.

The report of the panel discussion on "Manpower" was given by WINIFRED NORMAN, Chairman of the National Council of Negro Youth, who stated that a National Committee should be developed immediately for the re-establishment of the FEPC; that it should be given adequate funds to carry on its work; and that resumption of the hearings on discriminations in the railroad industry should be instituted. She stated that they should endeavor to get unity of all groups on this issue and to get organizations to adopt resolutions and to send telegrams demanding the restoration of the FEPC.

She further stated that the War Manpower Commission in every city and locality should be utilized in such a way that all cases of discrimination should be taken before this Commission. In this connection, she stated that they should demand that a War Manpower Committee on Discrimination should be set up with Negroes serving on the Committee.

WINIFRED NORMAN also demanded adequate training of Negro women for industry, care of children centers and nurseries as being essential for the full utilization of manpower. She stated that all trade unions should be urged to pass resolutions against discrimination of Negroes in the Armed forces and that Negroes should be taken out of labor battalions and given immediate combat duty. She urged a campaign against the

discrimination practiced by the WAACs, WAVES and SPARs and demanded that Negro nurses and doctors be used in the Armed Services. She stated that resolutions and telegrams should be sent to the Army and Navy officials making these demands.

She advised that a National campaign is to be developed calling upon Negroes to join the labor unions and for Negroes to give full support to the unions.

THERA EDWARDS, managing editor of the "People's Voice" gave the report of the panel on "A People's Victory - A People's Peace." She stated that this is a people's war and must therefore be a people's victory; that their entire forces must be thrown into the struggle to win the war; and that winning the war depended upon the opening of a second front in Europe now.

In calling for full utilization of all our resources in manpower to win the war, she declared that the United Nations must give freedom to India and permit them to form a Provisional National Government, with free education, free trade union movement and the right to arm their people.

EDWARDS likewise attacked the South African situation, stating that the major obstacle is the present Colonial policy that these Africans are not permitted to aid in the war effort and that the arming of the African people is a vital reality. She stated that there are millions in South Africa that are willing to fight if granted their freedom.

EDWARDS further declared that 20,000, Republicans, all members of the ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE who fought in the Spanish Civil War, and who are now held in concentration camps, should be released for participation in the war. She stated that the West Indies, Puerto Rico and other nations are struggling for freedom and want to be assured that the provisions of the Atlantic Charter apply to them.

In reference to Soviet Russia, EDWARDS stated that there are 139 different nationalities in Russia, all integrated with a common interest. She stated that their victory over the Axis and for freedom will mean freedom for the Negroes.

EDWARDS also attacked discrimination against the Negro in the various phases of the war effort and stated that an effective campaign must be developed to combat discrimination against the Negroes as developed by the Metropolitan press.

The report of the panel on "Democratic Rights" was given by LOUISE MC DONALD, who stated that the struggle for the Negroes' rights is bound up with World victory for the United States and the Allied nations, that the attainment of such victory is dependant upon the opening of a second front in Europe immediately. She stated that Hitler used the vicious propaganda of "Red-baiting" to conquer one country after another and that he succeeded in every instance until he attacked Russia.

The report of the panel on "Wartime Living Conditions" was given by Professor DOXEY A. WILKERSON, who stated that the panel had agreed that the issue is that of combating the reactionary Farm Bloc in Congress. He stated that this could be done in 2 ways:

1. The mobilization of the people for direct action, and
2. Direct and telling political action.

He recommended that they initiate the calling of local consumer conferences to deal with price ceilings. The reactionary Farm Bloc, he stated, have given their own interpretation of rationing which is opposed to the real and correct meaning of rationing. He stated that cooperative buying clubs and other cooperative organizations should be set up; that women's auxiliary trade unions, such as the Warehouse Workers' Union #65, in New York City, should be formed.

67D

[redacted] the following information concerning the reports of the Committees:

The report of the Committee on Program and Action was given by CHARLES A. KELLAR, who stated that the following resolutions were presented and adopted:

1. Demand for Democracy on the home front by giving the Negro full citizenship rights.
2. Abolition of the Dies Committee.
3. Demand that the United Nations supply the four freedoms to all the small nations and Colonial people.
4. That arrangement be consummated to give asylum to the Jews.
5. Eliminate discrimination in the Armed Forces and that the Negroes be integrated into all branches of the Armed Forces.
6. Full utilization of Negro manpower.
7. Full support of the President's policy of rationing - support or rigid price control of commodities.

8. Demand the opening of a second front in Europe immediately to aid Soviet Russia who has borne the brunt of the war against Germany.
9. Re-establishment of the FEPC, as an independent body with power to subpoena and to impose fines.

In connection with the demands for the last item, it was suggested that a petition should be circulated for a million signatures requesting restoration of the FEPC and the re-scheduling of the railroad hearings. It was also to be requested that the scope of the FEPC be broadened to enable it to deal with the discrimination in the National Capitol. The group also resolved to support and work for the passage of the anti-poll tax legislation.

The report of the Committee on Continuation and Organization was given by LOUIS SACATELLI of Washington D.C. He stated that in the past they were content with merely sending telegrams and letters to the President and members of the Legislature from the different organizations and members of these organizations. He declared that this was not enough; that the people in the neighborhoods must be reached. He advised that the best and most effective way to reach the people in the neighborhood was to form community groups. He stated that the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people were city-wide organizations which could not reach the masses of the people and he recommended that they form these community groups. He recommended that the delegates present at the conference take the initiative and form these groups in their respective neighborhoods. In this respect, he suggested that they take up such subjects as rationing and child care; and that they should utilize the Office of Civilian Defense with the idea in mind that they will not actually take over this set-up.

The Committee on Finance report was given by ELIZABETH WHITE. She stated that at least $2,000 was needed immediately in order to pay for the printing of petitions, 10,000 posters, newspaper items and 50,000 2-page folders on the FEPC and other activities.

In connection with the Financial report, MAX YERGAN explained that the request for finances by ELIZABETH WHITE was for the Eastern Seaboard and that the budget for the National organization was for $25,000.

RUTH BANKS gave the Credential report. She stated that at that time, she did not have the complete list of delegates but that 386 had registered from 8 states. She was of the opinion that 40 or 50 more were yet to register. She stated that more than 200 of the delegates came from

New York City, 11 New York State, 19 Pennsylvania, 56 Washington D.C., 36 Connecticut, 17 Virginia, 10 Maryland, 3 New Jersey and 8 Massachusetts. She stated that the delegates represented over 1,000,000 people.

[redacted] advised that actively directing the Conference were JAMES W. FORD, BENJAMIN DAVIS JR., EDWARD STRONG, DOROTHY FUNN, HOPE STEVENS, HOWARD "STRETCH" JOHNSON, AUDLEY MOORE, LARRY WASHINGTON, DR. DONOWA, SAMUEL PATTERSON [redacted]

[redacted] advised that the afternoon mass meeting was attended by between 1200 and 1500 people. The speakers at this session were MAX YERGAN, President of the National Negro Congress, THELMA DALE, Administrative Secretary of the National Negro Congress, EDMONIA GRANT, member of the National Council of the YWCA, JAMES B. CAREY, Secretary- Treasurer of the CIO, VITO MARCANTONIO, United States Congressman.

In addition to the speakers, the following persons were seated on the Speaker's Platform: FERDINAND SMITH, National Secretary of the National Maritime Union, EDWARD STRONG, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress, HOPE STEVENS, representative of the National Negro Congress and president of the Manhattan Council, JAMES FIMBERTON, Tammany District Leader, 17th Assembly District.

MAX YERGAN is reported to have stated that from the inception of the National Negro Congress it has sought cooperation of all groups in the struggle for democracy and the defeat of Fascism; that the organization has always been against those things that limit and handicap the Negro. He stated that the NNC sought unity behind the war effort by seeking to eliminate the limitations placed on Negroes, the removal of which are essential to winning the war. He cited such things as the anti-lynching campaign, abolition of the poll tax, and other evils that beset the Negro. He further stated that all their energy was being concentrated in the direction of winning the war by opening a second front now. He stated that the opening of the Western front was absolutely necessary as the Soviet Union and its powerful Red Army was bearing the full burden of the war.

THELMA DALE stated that the aim of the Congress was to fully integrate the Negro into the war effort. She stated that the war effort is being hampered and that it is being hampered by the efforts of the Congressmen from the South. She declared that this was a representative Congress representing states in the number of 9 and also the District of Columbia and that they were unanimous in the demand of a second front in

Europe, the passage of the anti-poll tax bill and the resolution for the restoration of the FEPC.

EDMONIA GRANT advised the audience that the Negro women must play a vital part in World War #2; that they should draw inspiration from such great women leaders as PHYLLIS WHEATLEY, HARRIET BUTMAN, SOJOURNER TRUTH and MARY MC CLOUD BETHUNE. She stated that Japan had raised the race question and that Japan had stated the United States and Great Britain did not intend to give Democracy to the darker races. She declared that they must give the Japanese their answer by abolishing discrimination in order that democracy may survive. She urged Negro women to join the labor unions, to go in for Defense training, and to do everything to get jobs, not merely as beginners but with opportunities for upgrading. She urged the audience to shoulder the outcome of the present conflict and declared that they must obtain freedom for the Black colonies of Africa and the Negro people of the United States.

JAMES B. CAREY stated that he did not recognize democracy as a peaceful process, that it was a constant conflict of opinions. He stated that to some people it is considered unpatriotic to ask for an end to discrimination or to ask for representation in the Government; that some people say it is not the time. CAREY advised the audience that now was the time. He stated that they have many Negro leaders in the CIO, among them FERDINAND SMITH and WILLARD TOWNSEND; that they were there not as a token but because they were qualified. He further asserted that they did not want a negotiated peace nor a compromised peace; but they must have a complete and full victory for all people. He advised that there would be mass unemployment after the war and that they must prepare to meet this situation by properly planning now. He recommended social security, the breaking down of discrimination and monopoly control.

VITO MARCANTONIO reported to the audience on the status of the anti-poll tax bill and stated that he hoped to get a vote on the bill by May. He advised them that members of Congress were placing their signatures on the discharge petition to bring the bill on to the floor for debate because of the nation-wide campaign of persons and groups writing to their Congressmen.

MARCANTONIO further stated that soon we would be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the death of Thomas Jefferson but that there was very little of the teachings of Thomas Jefferson in the House of Representatives today. He stated that the HOBBS bill put shackles on organized labor that the RUML plan will transfer the tax load on to the poor and that it was almost passed; that the placing of ceilings on salaries at $25,000 had been lifted and that Congress had eliminated everything essential to winning

the war. He stated that there was a coalition of poll tax, white supremacy advocates, reactionaries and vicious appeasers in Congress and that Congress was not representative. In speaking of Russia, MARCANTONIO advised that Hitler had taken one front at a time until he invaded Russia but that Russia had not crumbled; that she was being defended by the powerful Red Army and that now the immediate opening of a second front was vital.

MARCANTONIO further declared that they had placed on their ally, Russia, a tax; they had caused people to doubt and suspicion. He stated that this was a game of appeasers and Fascists and that this game was being played in the House and the Senate. He called it a scandalous and tragic situation which was holding back the opening of a second front.

A photograph of the participants at the mass meeting of the Eastern Seaboard Conference was taken from the New York Amsterdam News of April 17, 1943 and is being made a part of the files of this Case in the New York Office. This photograph includes a picture of FERDINAND SMITH, Mrs. EDMONIA GRANT, EDWARD STRONG, THELMA DALE, MAX YERGAN, HOPE STEVENS, JAMES B. CAREY and FERDERICK V. FIELD.

[redacted] b7c

In regard to the individuals living at 214 West 139th Street, Manhattan, and 385 Macon Street, Brooklyn, it was noted from a check of these addresses that both are 4-story flat buildings where numerous persons live. In view of the number of individuals residing at these addresses, the names of such persons were not obtained for check against the indices and further action in this connection is not being contemplated unless further requested by the Norfolk Office.

-PENDING-

NY 100-3633

NDEVELOPED LEAD:

New York Field Division

At New York, New York:

b7D

Will maintain contact with [redacted] and [redacted] of the New York Office for further information concerning the program and activities of this organization.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

SA FILE NO. 100-220

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	5/26/43	3/20,24,31-4/8, 14-5/7/43	[redacted] b7c

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Meetings of subject organization held at San Antonio [redacted] Continuing interest in instances of racial discrimination noted. [redacted] b7D [redacted] JASON Smith of Austin, Texas, reported traveling extensively throughout state, possibly in connection with Wartime Emergency Conference for Negro Peoples of Texas and National Negro Congress. Past unfavorable editorial comment pertaining to subject organization in "San Antonio Register", negro newspaper, noted.

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 3/13/43, at San Antonio, Texas; b7c

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 3/29/43 at San Antonio, Texas.

DETAILS: AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: b7D

[redacted] discussion which took place at the meeting involved almost entirely the question of racial

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discrimination against the negroes in the San Antonio area and to a lesser extent throughout the nation. [redacted] stated that there was every indication that the National Negro Congress group in San Antonio was controlled by G. J. SUTTON, LILLIAN SUTTON TAYLOR [redacted] J. M. BROWN, N. L. FLAGGS, and REVEREND NELSON DIXON. [redacted] had noted no manifestations of Communist activity in the organization [redacted] is of the rather strong opinion that Communist activity among the negroes in the San Antonio area is practically non-existent to date. [redacted] stated that there was a definite fear among the negroes of having any connection whatever with Communism. b7D

[redacted] b7D

SMITH travels extensively, particularly between Austin and San Antonio, and feels that SMITH's burial insurance business in San Antonio does not warrant so many trips to this city. [redacted] could furnish no other explanation, however, for SMITH's traveling. [redacted] is inclined to feel that SMITH might be traveling in connection with the activities of both the Wartime Emergency Conference and the National Negro Congress. [redacted] knowledge, however, no other units of the National Negro Congress exist within the territory convered by the San Antonio Field Division.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] advised that he was fairly familiar with the subject organization and subsequent activities of subject organization in the San Antonio area. He stated that the local organization was organized in San Antonio through the efforts of A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, presently leader of the National Pullman Porter's Union, a thoroughly loyal and patriotic American organization. [redacted] stated that certain individuals of Communistic inclinations got in the organization in San Antonio about the same time that the organization nationally was becoming Communist infiltrated. He mentioned in this connection [redacted] b7D

[redacted] b7C,D

stated that the organization took on a definite Communistic color and that many of the conservative-minded members immediately resigned, including the San Antonio Negro Chamber of Commerce and certain clergymen. [redacted] stated that the National Negro Congress group in San Antonio is active at the present time on a small scale and that meetings are ordinarily attended by not more than 10 persons. Although G. J. SUTTON is president and JOHN INMAN is a member, the congress seems to be engaged in no Communistic activity. Other members known [redacted] are definitely not Communistic. [redacted] mentioned LILLIAN SUTTON TAYLOR and Reverend NELSON DIXON as two present members with Communistic tendencies. It is [redacted] opinion that apart from the activity of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio, any general Communistic activity among the negroes in San Antonio would center around the efforts of [redacted] knew of no such activity taking place at the present time but merely voiced the opinion that [redacted] would be the logical leader of such activity if and when it should materialize. b7D

b7C,D

[redacted] made available a copy of an editorial appearing in the May 10, 1940, issue of the "San Antonio Register". He stated that at about this time the National Negro Congress was becoming infiltrated by Communists on a nation-wide scale and the publisher and editor of the "Register" were much concerned lest the San Antonio group become likewise packed with Communists. The editorial referred to outlines the formation of the National Negro Congress in 1936, its subsequent growth, and eventual Communistic activity. It points out that leaders in the Congress thought to be Communists advise that their duty was to support the government of the United States but never under any conditions to fight against Russia. The editorial recites Congressional resolutions censoring the activity of the National Negro Congress. With reference to the local group of the National Negro Congress in San Antonio, the editorial proceeds as follows: b7D

> "Since the very first call, and the initial meeting of the National Negro Congress, in Chicago, Illinois, in 1936, rumors have been rife that the organization was the 'brain child' of, and inspired, directed, and controlled by Communists and those of pro-Communist sympathies.
>
> . . . . .
>
> "In our own city, we view with alarm the possibility of the inculcation of the doctrine of Moscow in the youthful minds of our youngsters. More than one instructor in the public school system are devoted followers of the National Negro Congress.
>
> "The third congress, in Washington, which was held April 26, 27, 28, was so important to one teacher here, that she absented herself from her class room duties so that she might attend the national convention.
>
> . . . . .
>
> "We believe that the San Antonio Board of Education should investigate this particular condition, and ascertain, for itself, the extent of the inroads of Communism in the publicschool system."

[redacted] stated that the school teacher referred to who attended the third congress in Washington April 26, 27, and 28, 1940, was LILLIAN SUTTON TAYLOR, presently a member of subject organization. [redacted] stated that TAYLOR had received so much criticism by individual negroes in San Antonio that she had practically ceased her Communistic activities. He stated that in his opinion subject organization is not and will not be Communistically dominated unless a radical change in the membership takes place. b7D

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DALLAS FIELD DIVISION

* AT DALLAS, TEXAS: Will contact the Negro Chamber of Commerce, 62½ Goode Street, and endeavor to ascertain if a publication was released by that organization two years ago setting out the names of prominent negroes and organizations to which they belonged, with particular reference to the National Negro Congress and its officials.

Will check the indices of the Dallas Field Division for the names of those persons mentioned in the body of reference report of Special Agent [redacted] within the Dallas Field Division, to determine if previous information is on file for these individuals. b7C

THE SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION

AT AUSTIN, TEXAS: Will maintain contact with [redacted] mentioned in reference report of Special Agent [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining additional information regarding members and activities of the National Negro Congress in the Austin area. b7C,D

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Will continue to contact [redacted] and [redacted] for additional information relative to the National Negro Congress in the San Antonio area. b7D

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. [illegible]

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
WASHINGTON, D. C.	6/4/43	5/31;6/1/43	[redacted] b7C [illegible]

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS	INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Washington Council of the National Negro Congress sent largest single delegation to Eastern Seaboard Conference in New York City, with delegates from 23 organizations. Active leaders of the Communist Party in the District of Columbia dominate the activities of the Congress in Washington. Washington Council cooperating with Council of United Negro Labor Leaders of Washington, a Communist dominated organization, which is a spearhead organization of the National Negro Congress. Bureau of Local Employment set up. Local program of action for 1943 set up.

- P -

b7C

REFERENCE: (61-6728). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated February [illegible] 1943 at Washington, D. C. Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 13, 1943 at Norfolk, Virginia.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Negro Congress held a three day session in Washington, D. C., celebrating the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 2, 3, 1943. According to information appearing in the Pittsburgh Courier of December 26, 1942 and January 2, 1943, several members of Congress addressed the three day session, which was held at the Shiloh Baptist Church. Reverend [illegible] E. [illegible], who has been active in the affairs of many Communist dominated organizations of Washington, D. C., was one of the leaders at this meeting.

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[redacted]

On January 23, 1943 the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress sent a mimeographed letter to [redacted] The letter stated that due to the fact that most of the leading members of the organization had been recently giving their support to the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities and other campaigns, the Washington Council had been relatively inactive for several months. [redacted]

[redacted] He said that it was announced at this meeting that [redacted] was the new executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, who replaced CHARLES A. MURPHY, Jr., who had gone into the army. It was further announced at this meeting that the National Negro Congress planned a series of regional meetings from New York to Los Angeles, during the months of March, April and May, 1943.

The most important change of policy in the National Negro Congress which was discussed was the one with regard to the building of a membership base for the organization. In this connection, it was mentioned that previously the membership of the National Negro Congress had been made up entirely of affiliated organizations and individuals themselves had no direct affiliation with the National Negro Congress. The new plan was to have the National Negro Congress solicit individual members, as well as the affiliation of other organizations.

It was also decided at this meeting that the National Negro Congress would carry on a program of education for its members and for Negroes, dealing with such matters as the joint rationing system. It was also

felt that the various local groups could work on local issues and cooperate with other organizations in respect to national issues.

b7D

[redacted]

b7D

It has been noted that the Daily Worker for February 2, 1943, in discussing the first meeting of the executive committee of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, mentioned above, reported that a four point program had been adopted, designed to "mobilize the Negro people for victory and fullcitizenship rights". The four point program reported by the Daily Worker was as follows:

1. Fight for democratic rights for all citizens, through passage of civil rights bill for the District of Columbia.

a. Suffrage forthe District of Columbia.
b. Anti-poll tax bill.

2. Adequate living conditions for all and just costs for the District of Columbia.

3. Legal aid bureau.

4. Organizational drive for organizational affiliates and individual membership.

On February 15, 1943 the Washington Council sent to its members a mimeographed letter, asking attendance at a special meeting to be held on February 17, 1943 at 1920 13th Street, N. W. It was said that the purpose of this meeting was to outline action on issues requiring immediate attention, such as Congressional efforts to oust Negroes from important governmental positions; the proposed segregation in war workers clubs and efforts to destroy price rent control and rationing programs. This letter was signed by RICHARD BANCROFT, as chairman of the Committee on Citizenship Rights

and DOKEY WILKERSON, as chairman of the Committee on Wartime living Standards. It should be noted with regard to [redacted] WILKERSON [redacted] is a leading member of the Communist Party in the District of Co[redacted] [redacted] active in Communist Party affairs for several years.

In regard to the re-organization of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, as indicated by the meeting held above, it is interesting to note the report from [redacted] hereinafter designated as [redacted] which is being set out in its entirety herein. This report outlines the basis on which the Washington Council has been re-organized. The report reads as follows:

b7D

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

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On March 1, 1943 the Washington Council sponsored a meeting held at the Pilgrim A.M.E. Church, 17th and Rosedale Streets, N. E. This meeting was called the "Know Your Points Citizens Meeting" and was concerned with information about the point rationing system. A program of talks and motion pictures was presented and it is noted that DOXEY WILKERSON was the principal speaker on that occasion, speaking on the subject, "What rationing and price control mean to the people". Mimeographed announcements with regard to the meeting were widely circulated.

The Washington Afro-American for February 27, 1943 carried an article, stating that the Reverende M. CECIL MILLS, President and Dr. W. A. HUNTON, vice chairman of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, charged that Washington sets the pattern of discrimination against colored people for the nation by its unofficial endorsement of segregation and discrimination. These leaders of the Washington Council demandedthat the Congress pass a Civil Rights Bill for the District of Columbia.

It was also noted that the Washington Afro-American for March 6, 1943 carried an announcement of an emergency session of the National Negro CongressExecutive Board, which was held in New York City to discuss the program of the organization for the year 1943. It was noted from the article that Dr. W. A. HUNTON and DOXEY WILKERSON of Washington, D. C. attended.

b7D

On March 9, 1943 Washington Field office [redacted] advised that temporarily the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress was holding its regular meetings at the offices of the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities at 1920 13th Street, N. W. It should be noted that the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities is a Communist controlled organization.

On April 14, 1943 [redacted] advised that the Washington Council was circulating petitions addressed to the President, calling for the re-establishment as an independent agency of the Committee on Fair Employment Practices and the immediate resumption of the postponed hearings on the railroad industry. [redacted] who furnished a copy of the petition forms, advised that this work was part of the national campaign being conducted by the National Negro Congress.

b7D

[redacted]

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The Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, as reported in the Washington Afro-American of April 17, 1943, was represented at the Eastern Seaboard Conference, held in New York City, by delegates from twenty five organizations. Nine CIO, three AFL and one independent union were said to have sent delegates from Washington, the United Cafeteria and Restaurant Workers, Local #171, having the largest representation, with eight delegates.

The Afro-American quoted Reverend M. CECIL MILLS as describing the conference as follows:

> "A most stimulating and fruitful demonstration of what unity of all colored forces and white labor and other liberal elements can and must accomplish in defeating the Fascist enemy, both at home and abroad, and in the realization of a genuine people's victory throughout the world."

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[redacted] stated that the Washington delegation to the Eastern Seaboard Conference was the largest delegation from any single area. [redacted] also stated that the members of the Washington delegation occupied some of the key positions, such as group discussion leaders and panel chairman at the conference. Dr. ALPHEUS HUNTON was reported to be Chairman of the War Manpower Panel and DOXEY WILKERSON was Chairman of the War Time Living Standards and Economics Panel. [redacted] advised that among the Washington delegates to the Eastern Seaboard Conference in New York City were the following:

[redacted]

b7D

The proceedings at the conference, which have been previously reported by other offices, are not being set out herein.

b7D

[redacted] Volume I, No. 1, of Congress Vue, the publication of the National Negro Congress; a pledge card of the organization and announcements of the Eastern Seaboard Conference. These materials are being transmitted, with copies of this report, to the Bureau. It should be noted that the Eastern Seaboard Conference announcement listed the sponsors from the District of Columbia. From information previously set out in this report, it is indicated that individual sponsors contributed $2.00 and organizational sponsors contributed $5.00. In this connection, it was noted

that the Council of United Negro Labor Leaders of Washington was one of the organizational sponsors. The individual sponsors for the District of Columbia were listed as follows:

MURRAY B. ALLEN
WILLIAM J. ARNOLD
BERTHA BLAIR
Dr. SARA W. BROWN
Prof. STERLINA A. BROWN
Dr. HENRY A. CALLIS
Mrs. MYRA C. CALLIS
Mrs. SALLY H. CLARK
CALVIN COUSINS
Mrs. ELEANOR FOWLER
JAMES E. HARRIS
Dr. EUGENE C. HOLMES
Dr. W. A. HUNTON
CECELIA JEFFERSON
Rev. W. H. JERNAGIN
HARRY S. McALPIN
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Bishop W. W. MATTHEWS
Rev. H. T. MEDFORD
JACK MINK
Rev. C. T. MURRAY
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U. S. TATE
Mrs. MARY CHURCH TERRELL
WILLIAM VAN HOOK
Dr. A. C. WEBB
Rev. JOSEPH D. WHITE
Rev. LEVI C. WHITING
Prof. DOXEY A. WILKERSON
Mrs. VIVIAN WILKERSON
Dr. THOMAS A. WILLISTON

Following the Eastern Seaboard Conference, the Washington Council published its program of action for 1943 and distributed a quantity of mimeographed copies. The program was broken down under two major headings; first to extend full citizenship rights to all as ameans of winning the war, and second, to protect the war time living standards of the people. This program of action is being set out herein as follows:

I. EXTEND FULL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS TO ALL AS A MEANS OF WINNING THE WAR.

WIN CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL — Washington sets the policy of discrimination against the Negro people by unofficial endorsement of and passive indifference to practices of segregation and discrimination. A Civil Rights Billguaranteeing equal use of public facilities and accommodations to all Washington citizens must be passed by this Congress, as a means of cementing National Unity.

DEMAND NON-SEGREGATION POLICY IN WAR WORKERS' RECREATION CENTERS — Segregation must be stopped in the Nations' Capital. The Lanham Act appropriates federal funds forthe establishment of Recreation Centers for all war workers. A danger exists of an effort to extend the traditional local pattern of segregation to these Centers. Our community forces must be mobilized to prevent the establishing of such policy. JIM CROW must go!

SUPPORT THE ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

An equitable and just voting system is THE fundamental requirement of a democratic government. The existence of the poll-tax in the Southern states is a denial of full citizenship rights to millions and is repugnant to all democratic principles. Complete cooperation must be given the National Committee to Abolish the Poll-Tax. Getting rid of the poll-tax means getting rid of the reactionary Southeren bloc which now rules Congress.

ACHIEVE SUFFRAGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Also on the agenda of democratic rights to be won is suffrage for the citizens of the Nation's Capital. The Washington Council will support the District of Columbia suffrage campaign and cooperate with other organizations in this fight.

II. PROTECT THE WAR-TIME LIVING STANDARDS OF THE PEOPLE.

MAKE WASHINGTON A MODEL OF CONSUMER-PROTECTION

Inflation must be curbed. Low-income consumers must be aided in getting the most for their money under the price control, rent control, and point rationing systems. Education regarding these systems must be carried systematically into Negro homes and neighborhoods.

The Negro must be adequately represented on all local Price and Rationing Boards and among the 75,000 volunteer price wardens now being recruited by the O.P.A. Price and rent trends in Negro neighborhoods must be surveyed.

A free legal clinic service must be provided for low-income complainants against price and rent violations.

REENFORCE ECONOMIC CONTROL; STOP THE ANTI-ADMINISTRATION BLOC

The alliance of poll tax Democrats and reactionary Republicans in the new Congress is playing "politics as usual." They have launched their attack upon various necessary war measures, such as price control, demanding a return to "free enterprise." We must meet this challenge by mobilizing popular support for the Pepper-Tolan Bill, which provides for centralized and thorough-going control of our entire human and material resources. Only by such control can we speed victory.

END DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT

As in the past, the Washington Council will continue to throw its forces unreservedly behind all campaigns for full training and employment opportunities for Negro workers — both in private employment and in the government service. We laud the President's declaration that machinery for more vigorous enforcement of Executive Order 8802 is to be put into operation, and that the "indefinitely postponed" railroad hearings will be held. We must carry the fight for jobs forward — not only for the sake of the economic survival of the Negro people, but for the sake of the <u>national survival of all Americans.</u>

Upon the announcement of its local program, the Washington Council also started the campaign for the affiliation of other organizations, sending letters to all organizations which had sent delegates to the Eastern Seaboard Conference. Mimeographed literature was also distributed with regard to the public mass meeting to be held on April 21, 1943. Considerable publicity was given by means of mimiographed handouts with regard to the petition campaign to save the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

During May 1943, according to [redacted] the National Negro Congress has cooperated closely with the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities and the Council of United Negro Labor Leaders of Washington. Both of these organizations are Communist dominated groups. The Washington Council has particularly assisted the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities in its fight for employment of Negroes as streetcar and bus operators by the Capital Transit Company.

[redacted]

[redacted]

ENCLOSURES: To the Bureau:

One copy of Announcement of the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the National Negro Congress. One copy of National Negro Congress pledge card. One copy CONGRESS VUE, Volume I, No. 1, published by the National Negro Congress.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NORFOLK FIELD DIVISION

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Is being furnished a copy of this report, containing on page 11 information with regard to the residents at 101 S Street, N. W. and 3303 Woodley Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will continue to follow the activities of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress [redacted]

b7D

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NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

307 LENOX AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

Please enroll me as a contributor to the National Negro Congress. My pledge for the ensuing year is $_____. I am enclosing $_____ towards this amount and expect to contribute the balance at the rate of $_____ per month (per quarter).

_____

(Last Name) (First) (Middle)

_____

(Street) (City) (State)

440

National Negro Congress

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Mrs. Marian S. Williams
Nathan Witt
Bernice Wright
Dr. Max Yergan

Pennsylvania

Mr. Clarence Clory
Helen Cunningham
Mrs. Bertha Josselyn Foss
Mrs. Celestine T. Fulchon
Mary Foley Grossman
Fred Guilford
Mrs. Olivia Henry
Mrs. Edith Hurley
Mr. William Jason
John Lymas
Louis Marquet
Mrs. Beatrice C. Overton
Rev. J. N. Patterson
Atty. Hobson R. Reynolds
E. Washington Rhodes
Sol Rottenberg
Mr. Philip Vangelder
Sarah T. Walsh
Mrs. Goldie Ervin Watson
Russell Watson

Virginia

Daniel Boano
President J. M. Ellison
Mrs. Anne B. Gellman
Leroy Harris
Richard D. Kidd
Harry Koger
Act.-Pres. R. O'Hara Lanier
Dr. Stephen J. Lewis
Roscoe C. Mitchell
Dr. H. T. Penn
Mrs. Robbie Mae Riddick
J. Harry Tyree

Afro Protective League, Brooklyn
Amalgamated UCAPAWA Local 26—CIO, Virginia
Brooklyn Victory Council for Equal Opportunity
Claremont Settlement House, the Bronx
Congress of Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations, New York
Conference to End Discrimination in New Haven
Connecticut Conference on Social and Labor Legislation
Council of United Negro Labor Leaders of Washington
Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities
Greater Hartford Industrial Union Council—CIO
Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn
The Home Front
Howard University Teachers Union—Local 440—AF of L
International Labor Defense
Hampton Institute
Joint Board Fur Dressers' & Dyers' Unions
National Council of Negro Youth
National Federation for Constitutional Liberties
Negro Labor Victory Committee of Greater New York
People's Committee of Greater New York
St. Augustine Presbyterian Church, The Bronx
Salem Methodist Church, New York
Tidewater Virginia CIO Council
Transport Workers Union of America
United Cafeteria Employees—Local 471—CIO
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America District 4
United Federal Workers of America, CIO—New York Regional Council
Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

ENCLOSURE

For Immediate Action

1. Two hundred and eighteen signatures must be obtained in the next sixty days to bring HR7, the anti-poll tax bill of 1943, to the floor of the House. Write to your Congressmen to sign this petition.

2. Two hundred and eighteen signatures must be obtained to bring HR51, the anti-lynching bill to the floor of the House for a vote. Write to your Congressmen to sign this petition.

3. Assist in securing 100,000 signatures in this area, addressed to the President, supporting his statement for restoration of the Fair Employment Practice Committee and urging that the Committee be invested with adequate powers of enforcement and that the postponed railroad hearings be resumed immediately.

Preliminary Program

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

9:00 A.M. Registration
Morning Session

11:00 A.M. Appointment of Conference Committees
Conference Keynote Address
Afternoon Session

1-3:30 P.M. Panels
1. Manpower
2. A People's Victory—A People's Peace

3:45-6 P.M. 1. Democratic Rights
2. War Time Living Standards
Evening Session

9:00 P.M. An evening of entertainment
(Park Palace—3 West 110th Street)

SUNDAY, APRIL 11th

10:45 A.M. Special Church Services

2:00 P.M. Reports of Conference Committees
Adoption of Action Program

4:00 P.M. Victory Mass Meeting

Information for Delegates

All organizations interested in the Problems of the War and the Negro people are urged send official delegates to the Eastern Seaboard Conference. Each organization may send three egates. The registration fee for each delegate, visitor, or observer is one dollar, plus an enter-ment fee of 50 cents. Housing reservations should be made at least one week in advance of Conference date. For additional information write:

National Negro Congress

307 Lenox Avenue, New York City

MOnument 2-4570

▶440

LONDON — STALINGRAD — TUNISIA — GUADALCANAL — over three-fourths of the globe hangs the smoke of battlefields. From all over the world arises the cry of men and women who are fighting to be free from fascist tyranny.

Here in America, as in the world abroad, there are only two paths before us. One the United Nations have chosen—the way that strives to secure for mankind the four freedoms that characterize a democratic government—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear. For 15,000,000 American Negroes this spells freedom from oppression.

The other is the way of the fascist aggressor which tramples underfoot captive nations, which drowns in bloodshed the lives, dignity and culture of minority peoples, and ruthlessly stamps out the right of oppressed people to full liberation.

There is no middle road today either in international relations or in domestic politics. Those who jimcrow and discriminate against the Negro at the expense of greater national unity; those who shut Negro men and women out of jobs at the expense of increased war production; those who disqualify Negroes for service in branches of the armed forces at the expense of our nation's fighting efficiency; those who cry "black domination" to prevent the passage of anti-poll tax and anti-lynching laws—all are closely following in the foot-steps of our fascist enemies.

Democratic rights will be won for the Negro people—but only as we ceaselessly struggle to defeat the fascist armies abroad and the agents of fascism within the United States.

To achieve democratic rights, there must be organization — a fighting alliance of the people for democracy and victory. We are, therefore, calling a Conference of all those who want to see this goal achieved—we appeal to representatives of Negro groups, labor, church, fraternal and civic clubs, social agencies, and institutions to join us in a Seaboard Victory Conference to consider problems of the war and the Negro people.

Our Program

FULL USE OF MAN POWER

1. For the final offensive against Hitler by full utilization of Negro manpower and womanpower in industry without discrimination, through reestablishing the Fair Employment Practice Committee with powers of enforcement. To secure equality of participation in the armed forces by opening democratically to Negroes every branch of the Army and Navy. To increase the nation's fighting power by releasing the two million Negro sharecroppers on Southern cotton plantations to produce the food needed for the nation and our allies.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

2. To organize support among all groups for the passage of an anti-poll tax bill and an anti-lynching bill in this session of Congress. To conduct a campaign to replace characterizations ridiculing the Negro in the press, on the stage, screen, and radio with faithful interpretations of Negro life. To defeat anti-labor and other pro-fascist bills now being introduced into Congress.

WAR TIME LIVING STANDARDS

3. To support Administration proposals for price and rent control, urging the wide extension of these controls, and the extension of the rationing system to all consumer goods. To support an equitable system of taxation which will reduce war profiteering to a minimum. To work for child care centers for working mothers in their communities; adequate housing facilities for war workers; social legislation to protect young workers and women workers in war industries.

A PEOPLE'S VICTORY . . A PEOPLE'S PEACE

4. To work to obtain the extension of the four freedoms and the principles of the Atlantic Charter, including full democratic and political rights to the African, Indian, Chinese, Puerto Rican and colonial peoples of the world. To urge the arming of the African peoples so that their troops may hasten the United Nations victory in Africa. To work in all ways possible to strengthen the fighting alliance of the United Nations, and for the continuance of this alliance in the establishment of a durable peace.

Announcing the

Eastern Seaboard Conference

on the Problems of the War and the Negro People

Saturday and Sunday, April 10th and 11th, 1943

Abyssinian Baptist Church

132 West 138th Street - - - - New York City

CONGRE
Vue
PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
VOL. 1, NO. 1 APRI 5¢ COPY

THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Calls Eastern Seaboard Conference

'he Eastern Seaboard Conference lled by the National Negro Congress - April 10 and 11 in New York City, discuss the Problems of the War l the Negro People meets at an toric moment in the life of the gro people of America. As the ti- ic struggle against the worst ene- s of human progress develops, it omes increasingly clear that groes can only win their full dem- atic rights through an unequivocal t against fascism abroad and inst the agents of fascism at home.

'anels on Manpower, Democratic hts, War Time Living Standards, People's Victory — A People's ce, signify the broad scope of the Conference and the vital issues upon which it will place emphasis. The Panel on Manpower will discuss the restoration of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, with powers of enforcement, to facilitate the utilization of Negro manpower and womanpower in industry without discrimination.

Organization of support for the passage of an anti-poll tax bill and an anti-lynching bill in this session of Congress will be the main topic in the Democratic Rights Panel. Support of the Administration's proposals for price and rent control will form an integral part of the Panel on War Time Living Standards.

With full realization that the problems of Negroes are intimately connected with those of colonial peoples of the world and their struggle for liberation, the Conference will devote a special session to discussion of A People's Victory — A People's Peace, where Mr. Kumar Goshal, noted Indian author and lecturer, and Mr. Liu Liang-Mo, Chinese leader in the Young Men's Christian Association, will lead the discussion.

Prominent speakers who will address the mass meeting on April 11, at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, which will climax the Conference sessions, include Congressman Vito Mar-

(*Continued on Page 8*)

SKETCH

Our National President MAX YERGAN

Max Yergan, National President of the National Negro Congress, has had a long and varied career in the struggle of the Negro People for full democracy. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, he early became acquainted with the problems of his people.

Always a sincere and devoted student, he distinguished himself at both Shaw University and Springfield College. After leaving college he became a secretary in the Young Men's Christian Association.

The year 1915 found Max Yergan in Kenya, East Africa, doing Y.M.C.A. work among the armed forces stationed there. Africa made a profound impression upon him. The suffering of Africans under the system of colonial rule remained indelibly written upon his mind. In 1925 he went to the Union of South Africa where for fifteen years he was to devote his life to work among African peoples as Y.M.C.A. secretary. Anyone acquainted with the difficulties which confronted him in a country where reaction and prejudice against Negroes reigned supreme, will acknowledge the great courage, determination, sacrifice and foresight which his task demanded. But Max Yergan was equal to the task and today Africans speak highly and warmly of the "ubuntu" (spirit) which motivated him.

During this period Mr. Yergan was awarded the Spingarn Medal and the Harmon Award for his work in South Africa.

In 1936 he left Africa with the firm conviction that he could best serve the cause of African people by the establishment of an organization in America which would acquaint the outside world about African questions and help bring about African freedom. In 1937 he formed the Council on African Affairs, of which he is the Executive Director, now actively functioning throughout the country.

Besides being an authority on the colonial question and the author of numerous articles on this subject, including the pamphlets "Gold and Poverty in South Africa" and "Africa and the War", Mr. Yergan has written and spoken extensively on Negro problems both in America and in Europe. For some years he was lecturer at City College on "Negro History and Culture".

Today he is a national figure, known for his courage, integrity and able leadership. His encouragement and assistance to numerous organizations and individuals has inspired them in the struggle against fascism. As President of the National Negro Congress he is leading the work of this organization toward the achievement of democratic rights for Negroes through active participation in the struggle to defeat world fascism.

Africa's Place in the People's War

BY FRIEDA NEUGEBAUER

The people of Africa have a common destiny with all peoples who are today fighting world fascism. Their participation in the war is vital to victory for the United Nations. Realization of this fact is indicated by the growing demand that more Africans be armed and that African resources be fully utilized to hasten the defeat of the Axis Powers.

The future of Africa and the interests of her 160 million people, closely linked with those of the Negro People of America, demand far-reaching changes from the old system of colonial rule which for so long has held Africans in bondage. The responsibility for helping to bring about a better life for Africans rests upon the shoulders of the people in the United Nations countries and upon those in the United States in particular.

Among Africans themselves a new era has dawned and the continent is alive with growing movements expressive of African aspirations for freedom. In West Africa this is particularly evident. The growth of the African press there and the youth movement, which in Nigeria alone claims a membership of some two million, are indicative of the new spirit sweeping the continent. Recognition of trade unions in Southern Africa has begun to place a powerful weapon in the hands of African workers toward the improvement of their low wage standards.

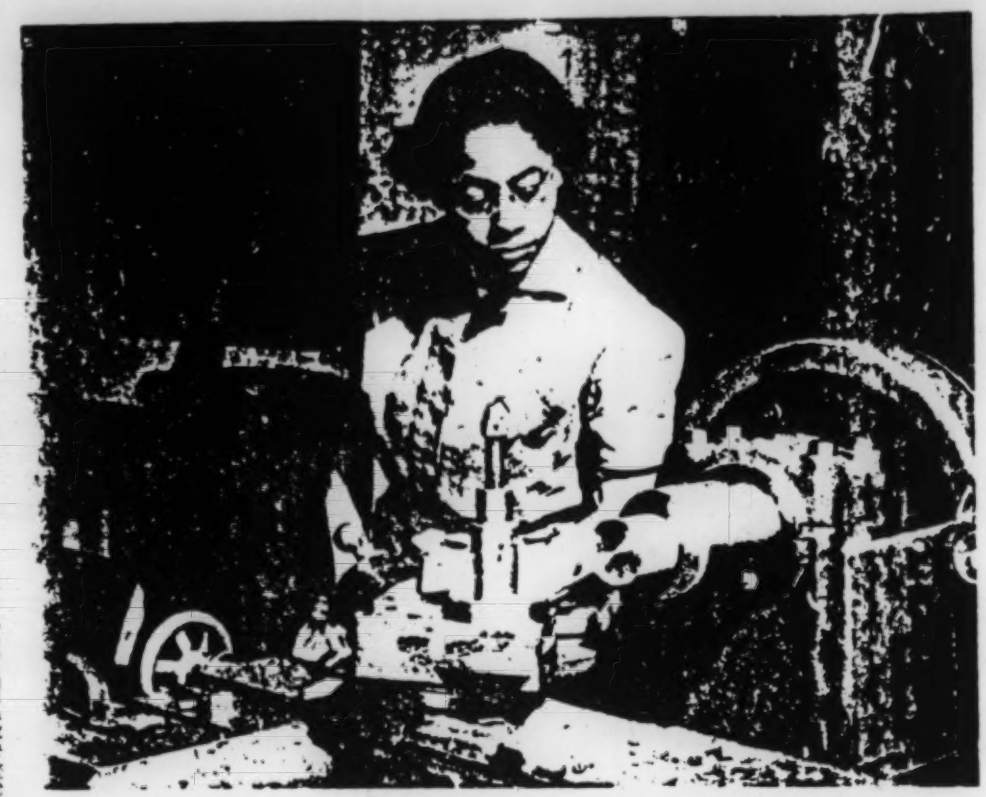
The failure to fully arm Africans has undoubtedly retarded the allied war effort in North Africa and elsewhere.

Soldiers of the West African Frontier Force, of the King's African Rifles in East Africa and of the Belgian Congo, form only a small percentage of Africa's available manpower. The epic feat of the Congo troops who crossed the almost impenetrable forests of Central Africa and played a major role in freeing Ethiopia of Italian invaders is but a small indication of what Africans, given the opportunity, can do to defend their continent.

While Africa's resources are almost limitless, it is true that most of her mineral wealth is today unused. Africa possesses 26 of the 27 principal minerals of world trade. The Belgian Congo and Southern Rhodesia produce over one-third of the world's copper supply; South Africa, from whose mines comes over one third of the world's gold, has tremendous deposits of iron ore and manganese. Coal, rubber, cotton, cocoa and coffee are among other valuable materials which the continent can make available for the war effort.

Immediate steps which will assure Africans that victory will bring fundamental changes in their living conditions are: extension of the right to vote, return of the land, removal of pass laws and other restrictions on civil liberties, general raising of the appallingly low standards of living.

Guarantees that there will be an end to the imperialist system of rule and that a people's policy will govern the future of Africa will stimulate Africans in the war effort and will make them feel that they have an equal stake in a victory of the United Nations over fascism.



NEGRO WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

BY YVONNE GREGORY

The large scale transition of Negro omen from domestic and other eids to industrial labor contains volutionary significance for the en- re future of Negroes in America. As eir men are absorbed by the armed rces and Negro women move for- ard into the ranks of industrial orkers, a new way of life begins to olve that will considerably alter the lationship of the race to the Ameri- n scene.

The history of Negro women has ways been the story of working wo- en. As domestic servants they have rked long hours for almost token y — and usually under the worst ssible conditions. They have been lated in their jobs, rarely coming to contact with organized labor or ad sections of community life.

It has been estimated that at least 00,000 women will be employed in r industries by December, 1943. mong these, there will be a repre- ntative number of Negro women. hough many have already entered ustrial occupations, the supply re- ns largely untapped.

Many war plants have admitted that better results are obtained from unskilled women, for when they are trained as they work in a specific industry they usually prove more efficient than those who have had to unlearn former work habits Thus, most industries recognize the superiority of in-plant training in recruiting their working personnel. Negro women should not hesitate to insist on being allowed to take advantage of such opportunities.

Many Negro women now employed in war industries had enrolled in various training programs offered in their individual communities. Vocational schools, NYA shops, and similar centers offer instruction without regard to race or creed, and thorough grounding received at these centers has enabled large numbers of Negro women to secure immediate employment. This type of training is offered free of charge to the applicant.

Rather than consider war jobs as dead ends, Negro women must realize that after the war this country will be even more highly industrialized. Women now in industry and those about to enter should learn all phases of their jobs and strive to improve their positions so that they cannot easily be displaced.

Many Negro women, applying at war plants for the first time and refused employment, have lost interest and courage. While rebuffs are bitter to endure, they must realize that there are agencies set up specifically to guard against this type of practice. This is not a thing that they are expected to fight alone, and they should find employer opposition less dogmatic than it was because of the present drain on available manpower. The United States Employment Service, FEPC, the Urban League, YWCA's, and similar organizations have gone to bat for Negro women and will offer guidance and advice as to the best avenues of approach.

At this point it seems obvious to mention the invaluable assistance that can be rendered to Negro women by organized labor. In order to guarantee present standards of pay and regulate working conditions, most trade unions are anxious to include the mass of Negro workers in their membership. This is not altogether motivated by humanitarian impulse. It is a matter of self preservation. If large numbers of Negro women are employed at lower wage scales than the remaining body of workers, the entire group is threatened Negro women, as they understand this principle, are allying themselves with the unions, and thereby strengthening themselves. Progressive labor groups insist that employment be extended to all, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. The exposure of Negro women to the Trade Union Movement has developed in them a new political awareness, and a feeling of the need for their participation in social action.

The campaigns waged by progressive groups for governmental aid to children of working mothers has the Negro woman's wholehearted support.

All Negro women should know the slogan "Womanpower is vital to victory" and understand what it means to them, to their men and to their children. It means that they must participate in the war effort side by side with all the other women of America to assure total victory for the United Nations.

PROGRAM of the EASTERN SEABOARD CONFERENCE on the Problems of the War and the Negro People

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
132 West 138 Street, New York City

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, APRIL 10th and 11th, 1943

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

9:00 A.M.—REGISTRATION

11:00 A.M.—MORNING SESSION

Chairman: Dr. Max Yergan, President, National Negro Congress

Appointment of Conference Committees

"The Negro and the Fight for Victory," Edward E. Strong, Secretary, National Negro Congress

Discussion

AFTERNOON SESSION—Panel Discussions

1-3:30 P.M.

1. MANPOWER

Co-Chairmen:

Charles A. Collins—Hotel & Club Employees Union, AF of L

Ferdinand C. Smith—National Maritime Union, CIO

Discussion Leaders:

James J. Conroy—United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America

Edward Lawson—President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices

Herman Smith—Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America

Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers—National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses

2. A PEOPLE'S VICTORY—A PEOPLE'S PEACE

Co-Chairmen:

Miss Thyra J. Edwards, The People's Voice

Frederick V. Field, Council for Pan American Democracy

Discussion Leaders:

Liu Liang-Mo—The Y. M. C. A. of China

Kumar Goshal—Author and Lecturer on India

Dr. Charles A. Petioni—West Indies National Council

3:45-6 P.M.

3. DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Co-Chairmen:

Attorney Hope R. Stevens—Manhattan Council, National Negro Congress

Mrs. Louise J. McDonald—National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs

Discussion Leaders:

Rev. H. T. Medford—Fraternal Council of Negro Churches of Christ in America

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.—Harlem Division, Communist Party

Miss Henrietta Buckmaster—Author

George Marshall—National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

4. WAR TIME LIVING STANDARDS

Co-Chairmen:

Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle—National Nursing Council for War Service

Prof. Doxey A. Wilkerson—Howard University

Discussion Leaders:

Edward S. Lewis—New York Urban League

Miss Vivian Sampson—Claremont House, The Bronx

Clifford T. McAvoy—Greater New York Industrial Union Council

9:00 P.M.—EVENING SESSION

An evening of entertainment—Kenneth Spencer, Guest Artist

SUNDAY, APRIL 11th

10:45 A.M.—SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES

2:00 P.M.—BUSINESS SESSION

Reports of Conference Committees

Adoption of Action Program

4:00 P.M.—VICTORY MASS MEETING

Chairman: Dr. Max Yergan

Speakers: Congressman Vito Marcantonio

Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

James B. Carey, National Secretary-Treasurer, CIO

Mrs. Edmonia Grant, National Student Division Y. W. C. A.

Thelma Dale, National Negro Congress

HE MUST BE STOPPED!

ACTION NOW

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The right of every citizen to participate fully in the life of his country. A People's Victory anud a People's Peace which demands the UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER of every deterrent to its achievement!

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ISSUES?

ABOLITION OF THE POLL TAX

The deadening influence of the Poll Tax has silenced the voting voices of the ten million citizens — Negro and white — in eight Southern states. The Poll Tax is a menace to democracy and victory. IT MUST GO!

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The Executive Order of the President, issued to eliminate discrimination in employment, needs the power of a strong committee to enforce its conditions. The reestablishment of the Fair Employment Practice Committee is essential to democracy and victory. It must be realized.

WHAT MUST WE DO NOW?

The first job is to see that enough additional Congressmen sign the discharge petition, which requires 218 signatures to bring the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, HR 7, to the floor of the House.

Write your Congressmen urging him to sign the petition. See that your organizations and friends and neighbors do likewise.

Help organize your community to insure constant public pressure until the Anti-Poll Tax Bill actually becomes law at this session of Congress!

By April 30th, 100,000 signatures must be secured on the petition issued by the National Negro Congress addressed to the President of the United States. It calls for restoring the FEPC as an independent agency within the Executive Department, and vesting the Committee with adequate funds and powers of enforcement.

HOW CAN WE ACT MOST EFFECTIVELY?

Set up Anti-Poll Tax Committees in every organization of which you are a member, to keep tabs on developments and to keep pressure on Congress.

Organize an Anti-Poll Tax celebration in your community and urge your local press to support the Anti-Poll Tax drive.

Cover every church, organization and individual in your community for signatures on the FEPC petition. Ask your local ministers to devote a table in the church vestibule for the purpose of collecting signatures. Write to the National Negro Congress, 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City, for copies of the petition.

CONGRESS

Vue

Published By
THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS
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INTRODUCING CONGRESS VUE

With this issue, the National Negro Congress begins the monthly publication, Congress Vue. Our aim is a simple one. It is certainly not to enter the field of large scale journalism. But rather, our objective is to provide a house organ for the Councils and friends of the Congress. Through the pages of Congress Vue we expect to report regularly on our stewardship.

In publishing Congress Vue we shall endeavor to mirror accurately and faithfully the most urgent desire of the Negro people. We believe that desire to be one of unity of organized labor, agriculture, and liberal white Americans with the Negro people as the path to victory in the war and the full liberation of the oppressed.

Further, our aim shall be to advocate a total victory for the United Nations over the fascist powers through the immediate opening of a Second Front on the European continent. This victory is a primary condition for the present and future progress of any oppressed people. The war, therefore, becomes for us a major struggle to advance the cause of Negro Americans. We envision the fight for full citizenship status for the Negro people and the fight for victory in the war as one and indivisible.

It is a grave error to believe, as do some among us, that in order to win the war and not embarrass the war effort, we must default in the struggle for greater democratic opportunities for minority groups. This John Temple Graves theory of unity, based upon capitulation to the Klan and the home grown fascist, is a sure guarantee of losing the war and the peace. Another error, also damaging in results, is the argument that "you can take care of the Hitler mess in Europe if you want to, but as for me, I am going to spend my time fighting the Negro baiters in the heart of Mississippi" In fact we must face Bilbo and Hitler, for a Hitler victory is a written order for a Bilbo America. Our fight, then, is one for Victory-Freedom-Democracy.

"From East to West, from North to South, the sky is written all over, "NOW OR NEVER."
Frederick Douglass

OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

By Carl G. Hill

Here is the pathway —
The road that stretches
Endless upgrade,
Cloven through the wilderness
Of indecision and disunity . . .

Here are the bold,
Unshaken footprints,
Firm as the honesty of him
Who left them as our heritage
That we, with aiming-point
Each milestone of direction onward,
May follow him —
May reach the heights he reached
And carry on.

Daring pioneer was he;
Fearless explorer, rising
From depths to which we sink
Only in terrifying
Nightmares
Of slave-whip cracking,
Burdened back breaking,
Of hope a futile mirage.

We see him yet:
Douglass the strong, the bold,
Still teaching,
Still leading us upward
Out of our special hell,
Still holding high the blazing taper —
The beacon of all oppressed!

Here lies the pathway, stretching
Endlessly upgrade;
Here are the bold unshaken footprints
That lead to freedom . . .
Let us take heart again.

(Reprinted by permission of "The Negro Quarterly" Spring, 1942).

We pay tribute to Carl G. Hill, merchant Seaman, recently reported missing. We pledge to continue the fight for that kind of world for which this valiant Negro gave his life.
Angelo Herndon

CONGRESS VUE SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

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EASTERN SEABOARD CONFERENCE

(*Continued from Page 1*)

Antonio; Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Jr.; James B. Carey, National Secretary-Treasurer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and Mrs. Edmonia Grant of the National Student Division of the Y. W. C. A., with Dr. Max Yergan, our National President, as Chairman.

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